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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 127 | WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the proposal for a Social Security buy-back for the CNMI?

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LOCAL

Asiana Airlines celebrates its 20th anniversary of flying to Saipan.

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WORLD

A massacre of more than 100 people emerges as a potential turning point in the Syrian crisis.

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LIFE & STYLE

Britney Spears is already proving to be a popular judge on "The X Factor."

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Fund sues CNMI govt, agencies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has filed separate lawsuits against different government agencies for alleged failure to remit payments. The lawsuits were filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division.

In the first complaint, the Fund named as defendants the Commonwealth Government Credit Union, the CNMI government, and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

In the second complaint, the defendants are the Public School System, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Board of Education secretary and treasurer Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, BOE members MaryLou S. Ada, D. Tanya King, Lucia Blanco-Maratita, and Herman T. Guerrero.

The third complaint named the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as the sole defendant.

The fourth complaint's defendants are the Northern Marianas College, NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, NMC treasurer Frank

See FUND on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A U.S. Marine walks inside a fenced makeshift command center and temporary housing at North Field for Marines Aircraft Group-12 personnel participating in the ongoing Exercise Geiger Fury on Tinian. Today marks another training milestone with the first C-130 to land on Baker Runway since the U.S. military left North Field in 1947.

Plane makes 1st landing at North Field since 1947

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In yet another milestone, Tinian marks today the first military plane landing at its historic North Field since the U.S. military left the island in 1947 after World War II.

The landing of a C-130 at North Field is considered one of the highlights in the ongoing Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 on Tinian, with 150 to 175 personnel from Marine Aircraft Group-12 out of Iwakuni, Japan participating.

"It will be historic," Lt. Col. Michael Taylor, commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Taylor said Marines pushed back a lot of vegetation that has grown up over the flight line and did some repairs to some of the asphalt on Baker Runway at North Field.

At the height of the war, North Field was the busiest airfield in the world, with military planes taking off or landing every 90 seconds.

Tinian's North Field was also the launching pad for the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hastening the end of the war.

"The C-130 is a very rugged aircraft. We're expecting it to come in here and land on that

See C-130 on Page 4

Top PH judge fired for not declaring $2.4M

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— Senators fired the Philippines' Supreme Court chief justice Tuesday for failing to declare $2.4 million in bank accounts in a politically colored trial that has reinvigorated President Benigno Aquino III's campaign to clean up the government.

Corona

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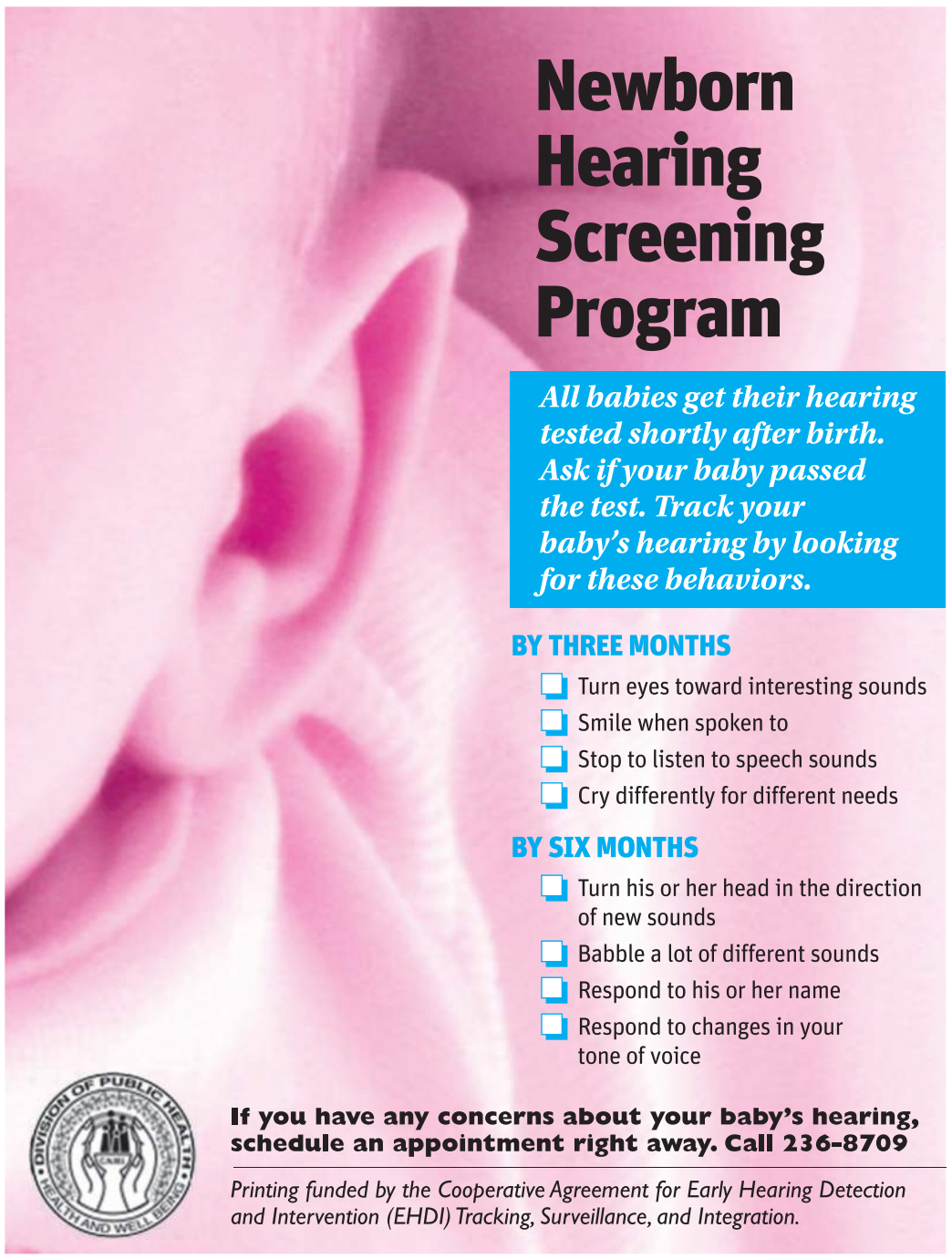
Saipan Air highlights the importance of Japan market. PAGE 3
Sparse attendance at public hearings to cut House size. PAGE 5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Local

Lee, Omori lead MBA's Class of 2012

JESSICA IM LEE
Valedictorian

MANATSU E. OMORI
Valedictorian

HAN BYOL YU
Salutatorian

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Marianas Baptist Academy's Class of 2012 ended the school year with a twist—a double valedictorian with Jessica Im Lee and Manatsu E. Omori.

Lee, Omori, salutatorian Han Byol Yu, and 11 other graduates were recognized during the 25th Commencement Exercises for both junior high and high school graduates held Friday at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The top three graduating students were informed of their awards just a few days before graduation or immediately after returning from a successful trip representing the CNMI in the national level of the mathleague.org competition.

Each of them received corresponding scholarships from MBA.

Lee, the fourth of five children of parents Jin Hye Kim and Jun Ho Lee, arrived on island in third grade and has since joined various competitions, including Mathcourt and National Forensic League. She was a part of the senior class yearbook committee and the editor-in-chief of the newspaper committee and also performed volunteer work for the Public Defender's Office and the Supreme Court.

Lee acknowledged God, her family, friends, and teachers for her success. "Thinking about it, it took a lot of hard work," she said. "I know I could've done more but I think it was my best shot and I'm just glad that I'm done with it now."

Lee is scheduled to leave for Princeton University where she plans to major in international relations. "In my NFL speech competition, I did something called foreign extemporaneous and I became really interested in what's going on around the world. I wanted to try to help people around the world."

Lee, who also plans to study law to become an international attorney, advised other students to try hard to succeed. "Do your best and always pray."

Echoing the same advice, valedictorian Omori said those who aspire to be on top of their class should study "really, really hard."

"The only people that actually get this title are those that strive for it, those who take it seriously," said Omori. "If you take it seriously enough for you to study and to have fun and to do everything, then you get the title you deserve."

Omori is the older of two sons of Takahiro and Annarose Omori of Marpi. He has competed in Mathcourt and NFL competitions, among others. He is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, has played for their school's basketball and volleyball team, and takes part in the school's monthly beach cleanups.

Beyond the confines of MBA, Omori is a member of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association and is among the high school volunteers for this year's Environmental Expo by the Division of Environmental Quality.

The 16-year-old Omori said after Friday's ceremony that hard work and prayer, along with the support of his family, classmates, teachers and staff helped him with his success.

Omori is set to leave mid-August for Tennessee where he will attend classes at Vanderbilt University where he will major either in psychology or medicine, health and society to support his future plans of becoming an oncologist.

Salutatorian Yu, 18, said that she tried her best to get the best scores in her subjects but didn't expect to become the top 2 graduate of the class. She gave credit to her classmates, teachers, and especially her family because "they were always there next to me to cheer me up."

Aside from representing MBA and the CNMI in competitions, she served as business manager for the student council and yearbook editor-in-chief. She performed volunteer work through the American Red Cross and the Korean Society.

Yu, the older of two daughters of Ji Kwang Yu and Young Soon Roh, plans to move next year to Korea where she plans to study her favorite subject, science, and one day become a forensic scientist. In the meantime, she will try to acquire some work experience on island by accepting tutorial and translation jobs.

Yu encouraged aspiring honor students to do their best. "Don't worry about grades too much. If you're doing your best, everything will just follow."

Other outstanding graduates for this year's class were A-Honor awardees Jodel Katrina Fernandez, who will be studying in Ateneo de Manila University; and Almond Dominique Legaspi, who will pursue higher education at the University of the Philippines.

Fernandez also received the Athletic Award while Legaspi earned the Service Award. The Leadership Award was presented to Yuko Takayama and the Loyalty Award was conferred on Lee, Sung Eun An, and Richard Eo.

Friday's ceremony was led by Dr. Yang Hoon Lee, MBA president; pastor and vice president Ramiro H. Trinidad; secretary/treasurer Leah R. Alfred; guest speaker Jennifer Dockter; and teachers Tony Flores and Lorna Liban.

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Saipan Air highlights the importance of Japan market—Tan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The launching of Saipan Air, set to become the CNMI's first national carrier, will reiterate and emphasize the Commonwealth's unwavering commitment to serve the Japanese tourism market, which continues to hold the islands' biggest share of arrivals, said Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

Tan stressed yesterday that the relationship between the Commonwealth and Japan dates back in history and has been enhanced and become deeply rooted over the years, resulting in a valuable partnership in the tourism sector.

"Internationally, Japan is the third largest travel and tourism economy in the world so its well-being is very important to the region and to the rest of the globe," added Tan.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said separately that the Japan market accounts for about half of tourist arrivals in the CNMI.

From the time when Japan Airlines pulled out from the Northern Marianas in 2005, however, Japan arrivals in the islands have suffered considerably and continued to decline since then, according to Tan.

Tan

"We have lost 65 percent of our Japanese tourists since 2005, and Saipan Air hopes to bring them back to the previous level and, hopefully, we can continue to grow beyond," Tan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Air is scheduled to have its inaugural flight on July 1.

Saipan Air will initially provide daily flights to Narita City in Japan and four times a week to Beijing, China. By Aug. 1, the airline will offer daily flights to Osaka and thrice-a-week flights to Shenyang.

While Tan recognized in an earlier presentation for the Rotary Club of Saipan the significant and steady increase of Chinese tourists worldwide, he stressed that Japanese tourists will remain as the CNMI's "most important" market for many years to come.

"Our first goal is to bring back the number of Japanese tourists we lost and bring it back to the level before JAL's withdrawal from our travel industry," said Tan.

He pointed out that even with Japan's recession, aggravated by last year's earthquake disaster, Japanese travelers have regained their confidence, quickly and steadily recovering from the March 11, 2011, aftermath.

With more air service in the Japan route being provided to the CNMI, Tan said the islands can expect an additional 50,000 tourists annually, which will infuse about $100 million into the local economy.

Tan said that Saipan Air is working closely with Japanese tour coordinators and travel agencies, which will be critical in achieving the company's ultimate goal of bringing in more tourists to enjoy the islands' scenic views and historical value and would help turn around the CNMI's main industry and improve the local economy accordingly.

"Our second goal is to maximize the potential of the entire Japan market with additional cities," said Tan, adding that Saipan Air is looking at expanding its air service to Nagoya and Fukuoka, including seasonal flights to Sapporo.

Tan urged Saipan Air's partners and the community in general to support the new airline company. "Saipan Air's success is the CNMI's success," he added.

Fitial wants CUC privatized before his final term ends

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wants the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to be privatized before his second and last term expires in 2015.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the privatization of CUC "had always been the vision of the Fitial administration."

Fitial

"The central government does not have the financial ability to subsidize the operations of CUC," he said.

"Politics," according to Fitial, prevented CUC privatization from happening during his first term. He said CUC's current leadership doesn't seem to consider privatization.

Fitial recently placed CUC under a state of emergency and accepted Abe Malae's resignation as CUC executive director last week. Malae believes that privatizing CUC is not feasible, among other things.

Demapan said there has not been an assessment yet of how viable CUC privatization is. One of CUC's power plants on Saipan is being operated by a private firm.

Besides privatization of CUC, the Fitial administration wants to speed up contract awards to Japan-based Saipan Solar System and U.S.-based American Capital Energy Co. to provide an additional 20 or 10 megawatts each of alternative or renewable energy, particularly photovoltaic solar energy.

The Fitial administration is also pushing for the privatization of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which is also under an extended state of emergency.

IN LAWSUIT CHALLENGING CW FINAL RULE

Woodruff admits clients have no unified position

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney Stephen Woodruff has admitted that his clients—a group that is suing Department of Homeland Secretary Janet Napolitano and other federal officials over the implementation and enforcement of the CNMI-only transitional worker Final Rule—have not come to a unified position about the future direction of the lawsuit.

Woodruff said yesterday that experience since U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied their motion for preliminary injunction has been a realization of irreparable harms to businesses and foreign workers, if not to plaintiffs.

Woodruff added that there has been endless frustration with the continuing (and in some senses increasing) botched implementation by Department of Homeland Security (and the U.S. Department of State) of the transition to federal immigration.

The lawyer issued the statements in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comments regarding a senior U.S. Department of Justice's lawyer's disclosure that the plaintiffs do not seem to be interested in pursuing the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs in the case are Bonifacio V. Sagana, Manuel T. Vilaga, Gerardo G. De Guzman, Hector T. Sevilla, Carlito J. Marquez, Eduardo M. Elenzano, and Jong Ho Lee.

The respondents are Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director David Gulick, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, and U.S. Department of Labor District Director Terrence Trotter.

The plaintiffs' lawsuit challenges the implementation and enforcement of the CW Final Rule, which according to Woodruff, is both procedurally and substantially defective.

Theodore W. Atkinson, a senior litigation counsel of the DOJ's Civil Division, has informed the district court that the cost of flying from Washington, D.C. to Saipan for the hearing in person is not justified since the plaintiffs do not seem interested in pursuing their case.

Atkinson said the plaintiffs have been given four separate extensions of time to file an amended complaint but they have not done so to date.

Woodruff said the injury that needs redress is actually of much larger scope than the current lawsuit.

"The difficulty is determining how to deal with that situation, because the complaint clearly needs amendment, including possible joinder and dropping of parties," Woodruff added.

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Guam's Calvo urged to consider changes to Medicaid processing

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo has asked Gov. Ed Calvo to consider changes to the Medicaid program in Guam that may allow the Department of Public Health and Social Services to provide Medicaid coverage for emergency medical treatment for otherwise eligible migrants from the Freely Associated States.

According to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), more than $4.5 million in federal Medicaid funds available to Guam between fiscal years 2009 and 2011 were left unspent. These excess funds were the result of increases in Guam's Medicaid cap secured by Bordallo within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Affordable Care Act included a provision offered by Bordallo that increased Guam's Medicaid cap from $13.7 million in 2010, to $24 million in 2011, to $42 million in 2012. This cap will continue to increase to $58 million in F2019, nearly tripling federal Medicaid dollars available to Guam.

In her May 15, 2012, letter to Calvo, Bordallo noted that DPHSS has not filed any Medicaid claims for emergency services provided to otherwise eligible Compact migrants, and instead provides coverage for these services through the locally-funded Medically Indigent Program. She noted that medically necessary dialysis treatment qualifies as an emergency service under CMS regulations, one of the primary health care costs for Compact migrants on Guam. Shifting coverage for these services from MIP to Medicaid would make the federal government responsible for meeting 55 percent of the cost and realizing significant savings in Guam's local health care dollars.

Bordallo also sent a letter to Assistant Secretary Babauta of the Department of the Interior to request his assistance in clarifying the specific circumstances under which Compact migrants would be eligible for emergency Medicaid coverage.

"For far too long, our island has been responsible for bearing the financial burden of providing healthcare to Compact migrants. Increases in Guam's Medicaid cap have made it possible to shift some of that burden back to the federal government where it belongs. However, without changes to Guam's Medicaid program, our local government will continue to carry the majority of this burden unnecessarily," said Bordallo.

"Recent attempts in the House to cut critical Medicaid funding for the territories demonstrate the need for our local leaders to work together to make the most of federal funds available to our island. I am working with Governor Calvo and Secretary Babauta to find a way to better target the spending of our Medicaid funds on Guam so that they go further within our community and mitigate the financial burden of providing medical coverage for migrants from the Freely Associated States." ***(PR)***

Registration for NMC's regular summer session begins June 11

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's upcoming regular summer session will begin on Monday, June 11, 2012, and will continue until Wednesday, June 13, 2012. NMC's regular summer session will run from June 14 to Aug. 10, 2012.

New students are required to take the placement tests before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the summer 2012 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu. Note that the first placement test is on Monday, June 4, 2012.

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the college's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC website.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that placement tests have been taken.

There is a $25 fee for the placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4pm). Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

For more information, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

IMPORTANT DATES

Regular Summer Session 2012
- June 11-13: Registration for Regular Summer Session
- June 14: First Day of Classes for Regular Summer Session
- July 4: Liberation Day – Legal Holiday
- Aug. 9: Last Day of Classes
- Aug. 10: Final Exams
- Aug. 13: Grades Due

English Placement Test Schedule
- June 4-7, 9am – 4pm, Building M
- June 8, 9am – 2pm, Building M

FUND

From Page 1

Rabauliman, and Board of Regents members Juan T. Lizama, Elaine Hocog Orilla, Andrew Orsini, Maria T. Peter, and William S. Torres.

The fifth complaint named the CNMI government and Finance Secretary Larson as defendants.

The Fund, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, is suing the Commonwealth Government Credit Union for breach of contract after it allegedly failed to make scheduled payments on the $2 million it borrowed from the Fund on Aug. 15, 1996. Huesman said the defendants ceased remitting payments on Aug. 29, 2011.

The Fund is demanding unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

In the complaint against PSS, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., NMC, and other co-defendants, the Fund is suing for breach of contract, saying the defendants' failure to remit payments at the actuarially determined rate violates the law and that such failure to remit payments should be penalized.

This failure, Huesman said, contributed to the Fund's need to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

The Fund is seeking unspecified damages.

Huesman said that PSS' past due payments, including penalties, now amount to about $30 million, while CHC's past due amounts, including penalties, now total more than $7.4 million. NMC, on the other hand, owes the Fund almost $8 million, Huesman said, representing past due employer contributions and penalties.

Huesman said these failures to remit payments require the imposition of penalties.

In the complaint against the CNMI government and Larson, Huesman said the CNMI government breached a financing agreement with the Fund in February and March 1995 to finance the construction of a judicial complex.

He said the CNMI government has been in default since January 2011 for failing to make timely payments. Huesman said the CNMI has ceased paying the revenues received by the Judiciary to which Fund is entitled under the financing agreement.

The Fund is seeking damages, court costs, and expenses, for breach of contract.

Huesman also asked the court to appoint a receiver to collect and remit all fines, fees, and monies gathered and collected by the Judiciary.

PLANE

From Page 1

runway that we brought back to service," he added.

He said there is only one C-130 expected to land and take off from Baker Runway.

"This is the first exercise. We don't want to extend ourselves too far; we want to make sure everything goes well so we'll land one here," Taylor added.

Today's scheduled landing of a C-130 on North Field comes six days after the first F/A-18D Hornets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121-MAG 12 landed for the first time on Tinian's West Field on May 23. Their landing established the effectiveness of the coral setup of the arresting gear. The goal was 10 arrestments in under an hour but they were able to do 12 in less than an hour.

Lt. Cdr. Aisha Bakkar, public affairs officer of the Marine Forces Pacific Guam and CNMI, said yesterday that Engineers Operations Company, MWSS-171, repaired 4,100 feet of the Baker Runway, making it capable of landing C-130 aircraft.

"It is a significant highlight for Marine Aircraft Group-12 as a mission essential task has been successfully accomplished. During Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, Marine Wing Support Squadron-171 (MWSS-171) has accomplished its mission by establishing an expeditionary airfield in an austere environment," she said.

Bakkar said no aircraft has landed on North Field since the U.S. military abandoned it after 1947. Over the past 65 years, Tinian jungle has reclaimed the airfields.

"Used as a base from which the 509th Composite Group flew the two atomic bomb missions against Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, North Field is probably the most historically significant airfield," Bakkar said.

The four 8,500-foot runways at North Field on Tinian comprised the largest single airport in world in mid-summer 1945.

As of early last night, the C-130 from Guam was scheduled to land between 10am and 11am today.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said he's glad that the ongoing training has been progressing well, and thanked the Marines for their community services, including free medical and dental missions.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 is intended to allow Marine Aircraft Group-12 out of Japan "to improve aviation combat readiness and simulate operations in a deployed austere environment."

Training on Tinian's North Field includes clearing, stripping, and repairing the landing surface on Able and Baker runways and the installation of matting for vertical take-off and landing of rotary and fixed-wing operations.

Training on Tinian's West Field includes emplacement of arresting gear and fuel storage/distribution for purposes of extending aviation training throughout the Mariana Island Range Complex.

TOP

From Page 1

AP

Protesters celebrate during a rally near the Philippine Senate in Manila, Philippines on Tuesday May 29, 2012. Philippine senators voted to convict Chief Justice Renato Corona during a historic impeachment trial that lasted five months.

Chief Justice Renato Corona was appointed by Aquino's predecessor, who is under hospital arrest in a vote-rigging case, and he has called the effort to oust him a threat to democracy. He said his omission was not an impeachable offense and that a 1974 bank privacy law protects foreign deposits from disclosure, while prosecutors argued the constitution mandates a full declaration of assets for someone in his position.

Corona is considered fired and barred from public office after senators voted 20 to 3 to convict him on charges of betraying public trust and violating the constitution.

Corona testified last week that it wasn't only him who is on trial and challenged all 188 lawmakers who impeached him to disclose their dollar accounts—but there were few takers.

The nationally televised 5-month-long proceedings gripped the nation like a soap opera with emotional testimonies, political grandstanding and a sideshow family drama.

Prosecutors, most of whom are Aquino's allies from the lower House of Representatives, argued that Corona concealed his wealth and offered "lame excuses" to avoid public accountability.

Corona said that he had accumulated his wealth from foreign exchange when he was still a student. Rep. Rodolfo Farinas, one of the prosecutors, ridiculed the 63-year-old justice, saying he "wants us to believe that when he was in grade four in 1959 he was such a visionary that he already started buying dollars."

"It is clear that these were excuses and lies made before the Senate and the entire world," Farinas said in Monday's closing arguments, adding that Corona had declared in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth less than 2 percent of what he actually owned.

Addressing not only the senators but a public hungry for transparency in a country where corruption is endemic, the rich and powerful rarely prosecuted and a third of the population of 94 million lives on $1 a day, prosecutors sought to discredit Corona's defense with references to a lifestyle beyond the means of most of the people.

The prosecution asked if Corona was so rich, why did he need a loan for a car, and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile quizzed that if Corona had nothing to hide, why the failure to declare all his assets, as mandated by the constitution. Corona's lawyer Serafin Cuevas cited a threat of kidnapping and extortion.

Aquino, the son of the revered democracy icon and the late president, Corazon Aquino, won the 2010 elections on a promise to rid the Philippines of corruption. His immediate target was former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her inner circle that includes Corona, who was appointed by Arroyo shortly before she stepped down.

"This is not about vendetta," said Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, a close adviser of Aquino. "This is about strengthening the institutions of democracy, the institutions of check and balance."

He said that the conviction "shows that this country can dispense justice. This encourages people to avail of a judicial process that works even if the accused is a big fish."

Abad hoped it would also "spark a bigger investor confidence in the Philippines because commerce thrives in an atmosphere of good governance, stability and predictability."

The head of the largest left-wing group Bayan, Renato Reyes, said that the impeachment offered a measure of accountability but "is not a cure-all for corruption nor a quick solution to the problem of judicial reforms."

Cuevas said that Corona may consider fighting the conviction at the Supreme Court, an uncharted territory that may push the Philippines toward a constitutional crisis. Enrile said that impeachment verdict is final and cannot be appealed.

Sparse attendance at public hearings to cut House size

»All testimonies support legislative initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations saw "very poor attendance" at a series of public hearings on a legislative initiative seeking to reduce the number of Saipan House members from 18 to nine. All who testified supported the proposal but some of them recommended changes to the plan, the panel said.

The JGO Committee wrapped up five public hearings on House Legislative Initiative 17-4 on Wednesday night last week

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the seven-member panel, said the public hearing in Tanapag, for example, saw only two people in attendance and only one of them testified in favor of HLI 17-4.

"Attendance was very poor. But like I said before, as long as I am the chair of the JGO Committee, there will be no short cuts. The public will be given a chance to be heard," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The initiative's author, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), said he personally wants the JGO panel to recommend the passage of his initiative, which he said did not receive any opposition at the public hearings.

"No one opposed the initiative so I am hoping that the committee will recommend its passage. But it's also possible that the committee recommends that the full House decide on its own," he said.

Palacios and Demapan said community members also made some recommendations to amend the initiative, such as including the Senate in the seat reductions, further reducing the House members from Saipan to as low as five, and consideration of a part-time Legislature to cut government spending and improve efficiency.

The JGO panel is expected to meet soon to discuss preparations for a written report on the public hearings and the formulation of a recommendation.

Demapan said he personally supports reducing the number of lawmakers but he is also concerned about the "one man, one vote" consideration.

Palacios said it's the people that make constitutional changes. "So if the people vote to reduce the number of lawmakers, the court will accept that because it's the will of the people. It's the people that make and amend the Constitution," he said.

He added that the sooner the House and the Legislature pass HLI 17-4, the better, so that the Commonwealth Election Commission will be able to have ample time to educate the public about the initiative.

HLI 17-4 seeks to amend Article 2, Section 4 subsections (a), (b) and (c) of the CNMI Constitution to reduce the number of Saipan members in the House of Representatives from 18 to nine.

There are currently 20 House members. Of this number, Rota and Tinian each have one.

The Senate has nine members comprising three each from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

If ratified by voters, the initiative will result in over $1 million in annual savings "by cutting the present budget by each representative's salary of $39,500 together with their respective annual budget of $84,146. This savings of $1,112,814 would be significant in light of the current economic circumstances," the initiative states.

Fitial on 4-day personal trip to Japan

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, along with first lady Josie Fitial, left early yesterday morning for a personal, non-government funded trip, press secretary Angel Demapan said.

This Japan trip comes some two months since the governor's last off-island trip in March.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is now acting governor. Inos held a Cabinet meeting yesterday morning, mainly to share with Cabinet members the administration's plans related to moving back into the Social Security system amid the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

Demapan said while Fitial is in Japan "tending to personal matters, the governor will also take time to pay courtesy visits with travel partners KNT, JTB, and HIS."

"During these visits, the governor is expected to thank the travel partners for their continued commitment to enhancing and growing our tourism industry. He will also attend the launching of Saipan Air's office in Tokyo on Wednesday and in Osaka on Thursday, before returning back to Saipan on Friday," the press secretary added.

Saipan Air's inaugural flight is set for July 1. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

PEACE MEMORIAL
Two female members of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination from Japan offer paper cranes during a memorial service held at the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi on Sunday morning. The group marked its sixth annual pilgrimage to the island to pray for all those who perished during World War II.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross annual meeting

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting tonight, Wednesday, May 30, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and others interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections of the voting members of its board of directors, review reports by Chapter directors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Chapter office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Cancer survivors guests in t oday's *John Gonzales Live*

The topic for today's *John Gonzales Live* will center around CNMI Cancer Survivors Week. Guests for today's program are cancer survivor Agnes Mangolna-McPhetres, Trina Sablan of Breast and Cervical Screening Program, and Juan L. Babauta, a cancer survivor and program manager of the CNMI Cancer Association.

John Gonzales Live will host a second installment of its CNMI Cancer Survivors Week segment with cancer survivors Claire Kosack and Edward T. Salas serving as guests. A cancer survivor from the Filipino community has also been invited to the program.

John Gonzales Live airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Monday and Tuesday the following week all from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on KMCV Channel 14. The program also rebroadcasts on the web on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com).

Viewers can participate by calling 287-4230, texting 28506382, or emailing johngonzalesleslive@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

DEQ sets COP beach cleanup on Saturday

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point Beach on Saipan on June 2, 2012, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the beach entrance parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

NMC School of Education Open House on Friday

The Northern Marianas College School of Education is hosting an Open House for those who are considering teaching as a profession. Participants of the Open House can learn about new scholarship opportunities like the TEACH Grant Program, the four different academic concentrations available at the School of Education, and other program features. The free Open House will be held on Friday, June 1, 2012, at NMC's Building J from 4pm to 6pm. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about the event, contact 234-5498 Ext. 2234. ***(PR)***

Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas
The People's Party: Rebuilding the Commonwealth

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
May 31 and June 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.,
Conference Room next to Herman's Bakery, Airport Road.
The Central Executive Committee invites
men and women who wish to run for public office
in the 2012 election to attend party.

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION DRIVE
June 9, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00
Kilili Pavilion, Beach Road, Susupe

HOT LUNCH FUND-RAISING
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Kilili Pavilion, Beach Road, Susupe
The Central Executive Committee invites the general public to attend, register and become a member of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas. For more information, call Chairman Edward Manibusan at 235-6520, email at: emlaw@pticom.com, Vice Chairman Jesse Borja at 234-8848, email at: jesus.borja.tuhu@gmail.com, Secretary, Jonathan Cabrera at 989-7050, email at: jonc51@gmail.com, or Juan Pan Guerrero at 483-1726 or email at jtgpan@aol.com or visit us at Facebook http://www.facebook.com/CNMIDemocrats.

This ad is paid for by the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas

Fitial urged to allow firm to find financing for $250M nuclear plant

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lawmaker and two Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials who recently attended presentations on nuclear energy production based on fusion and fast fission submitted their report yesterday to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, recommending that CUC sign a commitment letter to allow California-based Global Energy Corp. "to shop for financing for a 50-megawatt plant" estimated at $250 million.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), on-leave CUC executive director Abe Malae and CUC deputy director for electric power system Wallon Young Fong had this conclusion: "The fusion and fast fission technology is appropriate for base load on Saipan."

Malae resigned from his post soon after Fitial placed CUC under a state of emergency again over a cash crisis and the slow development of renewable energy, among other things.

Fitial's declaration of a state of emergency for CUC paves the way for the award of contracts soon to Japan-based Saipan Solar System and U.S.-based American Capital Energy Co. These two firms responded to two separate CUC requests for proposal for 10 megawatts each of photovoltaic solar energy production.

Malae, Fong, and Dela Cruz said that CUC should pursue nuclear energy while still moving on with its 10-megawatt photovoltaic solar plants project.

"The nuclear reactor kicks in at year four to five and the fuel surcharge, levelized energy adjustment clause (LEAC), in the rate is a blend of technologies," the three told the governor.

After shopping for financing for a 50-megawatt nuclear energy plant, the next step would be to negotiate a rate that is close to 15 cents per kilowatt-hour, under a build-own-operate transfer arrangement over a 20-year period, they said.

Fitial has yet to see the three-page report and recommendation because he left yesterday for Japan for a personal four-day trip. Acting governor Eloy S. Inos is heading the administration's renewable energy efforts.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the recommendation is in line with the administration's plan to privatize CUC through the process of build-own-operate process.

He also said the proposed 15 cents per kilowatt hour "is certainly attractive to the administration and to the community."

"The administration will review the recommendation from Chairman Dela Cruz along with its ongoing efforts to work toward privatization and ultimately, significantly reducing costs of utilities for the people. There are a lot of options to consider besides nuclear energy. The administration would like to delve deeper into each option to ensure that the end result is one that is favorable and beneficial to our islands and our people," Demapan added.

RELATED NEWS
Fitial wants CUC privatized before his term ends.
PAGE 3

Dela Cruz, Malae, and Fong attended presentations made by Global Energy Corp. in San Diego, California earlier this month. Dela Cruz is chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

The presentations were held at a Global Energy Corp. laboratory on a new, patent-pending, nuclear energy producing technology based on fusion and fast fission. The proprietary nuclear reactor technology is called Lattice Assisted Nuclear Energy, they said.

In the interest of full disclosure, Dela Cruz, Malae, and Fong said that Global Energy Corp. did not pay for the cost of their attendance.

They said the company did pay for some of the meals shared with participants from Guam, Yap, GEC scientists, managers, and principal. Dela Cruz, Malae, and Fong also said they did not receive any honoraria or payments from GEC or from any of its agents.

Dela Cruz, Malae, and Fong said their attitude was that of skepticism, especially since the adjective "nuclear" conjures up scary images of Fukushima, Chernobyl, and 3 Mile Island.

"We were trying to be prudent in that it was taking some time to review the renewable energy purchase power agreements in Saipan, and we're unsure if they would be the best overall source of electricity for the CNMI. We asked ourselves: What if we made a 20-year commitment to each RE [renewable energy] and then along comes a breakthrough that revolutionizes the power generation business?" they said.

Pros and cons

Based on the three officials' report to Fitial, the common features of nuclear reactor technologies include nuclear reactions that generate energy a million times more than chemical reactions like the burning of coal or oil and that it is for base load application, operating 24/7 rather than intermittently, like solar or wind.

They said the energy cost is much lower, 15 cents to 16 cents, than that of a baseload petroleum fired plant at 38 cents per kWh or more. They said it is also lower than other renewable energy such as wind and solar.

"Fuel change is required every 50 years," Dela Cruz, Malae, and Fong added.

They cited seven pros, and two cons, of nuclear reactor technologies.

Among the pros: the technology uses (fertile) Uranium 238 and not the (fissile) Uranium 235 of conventional nuclear technology. Uranium 238 is plentiful in nature and in non-radioactive nuclear waste.

"There can be no weaponization risk because Uranium 238 is used instead of enriched Uranium 235," they said.

They also said the fusion and fast fission nuclear reactions do not involve any chain reaction, and so can be stopped in a straightforward manner without danger of runaway core meltdown.

"There are no dangerous or potentially dangerous waste products," they said, adding that "cooling is done using helium instead of water."

Dela Cruz, Malae, and Fong said the reactor plant is modular, for example, 25 MW units, and the footprint is small, unlike the large size conventional nuclear reactors of 1,000 MW.

"Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulates to ensure safety of all nuclear reactors," they added.

The two cons: The three officials were unable to visit the prototype installation in Austin, Texas, as the permitting requirements for visitors would take a long time. They said a working up-to-scale reactor producing electricity has not been built yet.

CUC is required by law to derive at least 40 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2012. Malae himself said this is "unrealistic."

"And even if it were online, it would destabilize the grid. But we have to work with that because that is what the politicians passed," he said.

FRIENDSHIP DAY
A U.S. Marine shows the use of a power hose to put out fires, during Friendship Day on Monday on Tinian's North Field, where the civilian community got to interact with military personnel and take a close look at military equipment.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Man gets 1 year for terrorizing ex, threatening jail officer

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a one-year prison term yesterday on an ex-convict who repeatedly harassed and threatened a former girlfriend in violation of court orders and for threatening a Corrections officer with bodily harm.

Robert Jake Palacios, 24, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace in the first case as part of a plea deal. In the second case, he pleaded guilty to assault, disturbing the peace, violating an order of protection, and stalking in the first degree.

Palacios conceded that he violated the probation conditions of his 2009 assault and battery conviction by committing the acts in the two 2011 criminal cases.

Govendo sentenced Palacios to a total of three years in prison, all suspended except for one year, with credit for time served.

Palacios was arrested on Oct. 9, 2011. He will be released on Oct. 9, 2012.

Upon his release, he will be placed on supervised probation for three years. He will be required to undergo anger management counseling and alcohol and drug counseling treatment

Palacios was also ordered to complete 200 hours of community service, pay a $500 fine, plus court costs and fees.

According to the plea agreement, Palacios threatened to bodily harm his ex-girlfriend in three separate incidents in 2011, disturbing her peace and violating an order of protection previously issued by the Superior Court. He also threatened to harm a Correction officer that same year. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Judge declines to dismiss discrimination suit vs CUC, official

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has denied the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and CUC Tinian deputy director Evelyn Manglona's motions to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a family that is suing them for alleged discrimination.

In a written order yesterday, Govendo ruled that the court has jurisdiction over the lawsuit and that the plaintiffs' complaint against Manglona has sufficiently alleged facts to support a claim for a denial of equal protection.

Sylvester H. Palacios, Rosita C. Palacios, and Kayla Adrianne C. Palacios filed the lawsuit against CUC and Manglona in September 2011, seeking an injunction and damages.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, alleged that they have been discriminated against and were denied their rights to due process and equal protection.

According to court records, Sylvestre Palacios filed a billing dispute with CUC on Aug. 9, 2007, for his electric fuel charges. He did not indicate the amount he is disputing.

As a result of the dispute, Palacios' account reflects an unpaid balance. It took four years for CUC to respond to the billing dispute. Throughout that time, CUC disconnected the plaintiffs' water and power services on three separate occasions.

The first two occasions, CUC realized its error and reconnected the services. However, CUC refused to reconnect the third time unless the disputed amount is paid.

On Sept. 15, 2011, Kayla Palacios, a qualified individual with disabilities under the American with Disabilities Act, went to the CUC office on Tinian to apply for power and water services under her name. CUC refused to accept Kayla Palacios' application and payment for connection fees.

On Sept, 22, 2011, the court granted the plaintiffs' ex parte motion for temporary restraining order and commanded CUC to reconnect the plaintiffs' power supply. CUC was also barred from disconnecting the services while the disputed billing amount has yet to be adjudicated.

CUC and Manglona, through the Office of the Attorney General, filed motions to dismiss the lawsuit.

Manglona maintains that she did not discriminate against the plaintiffs based on Kayla Palacios' disability or in any way as to give rise to an equal protection claim.

Plaintiffs argued that dismissal is not appropriate since Manglona is not entitled to qualified immunity.

CUC moved to dismiss the complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction because plaintiffs have failed to exhaust all administrative remedies.

In denying the motion, Govendo said he finds that the complaint has sufficiently alleged facts to support a claim for a violation of equal protection. Govendo said that Manglona's motion to dismiss the third cause of action for failure to state a claim is denied.

On the jurisdiction issue, Govendo pointed out that the Superior Court has original jurisdiction over all civil actions. This case, the Govendo said, is a civil action.

Therefore, the judge said, CUC will not succeed in dismissing the complaint for lack of jurisdiction.

Okinawa group makes 43rd pilgrimage to Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Members of the Micronesia Repatriation Association pay a courtesy visit to Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos yesterday ahead of their 43rd annual memorial service to be held at the Tower of Okinawa in Marpi today at 11am and its 35th annual memorial service on Tinian on May 31. From left, PDI Saipan president Takahiro Tomie; MRA vice chair Asami Ginoza; Lt. Gov. Inos; MRA president Zenichi Taira; and MRA member Chizu Inoue. The Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa is an association of Okinawans born in Micronesia during the Japanese era of administration. The association returns annually to the CNMI to pay respects to the dead and pray for world peace. There are 86 members traveling in this year's delegation.

Eighty-six members of the Micronesian Repatriation of Okinawa, who were born in Micronesia during the Japanese era of administration, arrived on island yesterday morning for their annual pilgrimage.

This year marks the group's 43rd visit to Saipan and the 35th for Tinian, said director Gordon I. Marciano of PDI, which coordinated the visit.

Marciano said the visiting group will hold its memorial service for Saipan at the Okinawa Peace Memorial in Suicide Cliff in Marpi at 11am today and is scheduled to hold another service at the Tinian Suicide Cliff Okinawa Peace Memorial on May 31 at 10am.

"The community is invited to participate in the peace ceremony tomorrow and on the 31st on Tinian," he said.

According to Marciano, many of the guests were excited upon arrivingat 3:05am, looking forward to visiting the sites where they grew up in the Commonwealth. He said they were willing to pay extra so they could stop over on Saipan and Tinian before heading out to Guam.

PDI president Takahiro Tomie led MRA's board chair Taira Genichi, vice chair Ginoza Asami, and board member Inoue Chizu during their courtesy visit to various governmental offices.

"The group wanted to extend their utmost appreciation for the continued support the group has been receiving over the year," said Marciano.

He said acting governor Eloy S. Inos extended his appreciation to the MRA for their continued pilgrimage tour to the Commonwealth and offered them any assistance to make their visit "most memorable."

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores shared with the group a photo of his great grandfather who served during the Japanese period as municipal adviser for the local community.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio welcomed the group with his warm Hafa Adai and Tirow salutations. The group presented Tenorio a blueprint for the interpretive signs on important sites, which Marciano said would remind Okinawans and other visitors of the places where they grew up, educated, and worked.

MRA thanked MVA's Ed Diaz and Martin Duenas, PDI, Reps. George N. Camacho and Frederic Deleon Guerrero for cleaning the Okinawa Peace Memorial in preparation for today's ceremony, as well as Jesus Castro of San Roque and the mayor for hosting dinner for the guests while on Saipan. Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz will also host a separate dinner for the group while on Tinian.

Board chair Genichi said he looks forward to the participation of the *man'amko* in hopes of continued goodwill between both groups.

Genichi and vice chair Asami extended their appreciation to the people of the CNMI and urged everyone to remember the late Choken Ginoza, who provided "untiring support" and contributed a collection of photos that were presented to both the CNMI Museum and the Tinian Municipality. Choken Ginoza passed away three years ago.

"Mr. Ginoza will always be remembered as the Tinian Boy," they said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Li'l Hands School of Music students pay tribute to their moms' during the school's May 13 recital at the American Memorial Park Theater.

Li'l Hands School of Music serenades mothers

Some 30 mothers were serenaded by their children during Li'l Hands School of Music 6th Annual Musical Recital-A Mother's Day Tribute held last May 13 at the American Memorial Park Theater.

According to Li'l Hands School of Music piano teacher Joyce Dimaun more than 130 attended the recital and all were treated to voices and piano performances rendered by the school's students from the early beginner level to intermediate level.

In the early beginner piano solos some of those who performed were Jan Marini P Millo (*Mary Had a Little Lamb*) and Donato Santiago Jr. (*By The River's Edge*)

Late beginner piano duets, meanwhile, saw Gianpaolo Borromeo and Maxine Rabago perform *You Light Up My Life* and Isabella Nicole Edgar & Clarisse Noelle Torio tickle the piano keys with their rendition of *Listen to the Drum*.

Mary Grace Tiglao and Allexa Murielle C. Go also played *Sonatina 1st Movement by* Clementi and *La Chevalevesque by* Burgmuller.

"My mom is a never-ending song in my heart of comfort, happiness, and being. I sometimes forget the words but I always remember the tune," students of Li'l Hands School of Music were quoted during the presentation.

Dimaun expressed her heartfelt thanks to the students and parents/guardians who made Mother's Day a memorable one with the staging of the recital.

She also extended her gratitude to Ranger Nancy Kelchner for the use of the American Memorial Theatre as well as to National Office Supply ad HBR International for being the event's major sponsors. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.:RFP12-DEQ-080

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 18, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PESTICIDE SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MAY 16, 2012 AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. REINA CAMACHO (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JUNE 05, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE *IS NOT AVAILABLE*, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DPW/ED-056

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 21, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROVISION OF FOUR (4) DIESEL COMMERCIAL WOOD CHIPPERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THETHE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJET WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MAY 16, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISION OF ENERGY LOCATED AT THE SPRINGS DEVELOPMENT PLAZA OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO 4woodchippers@recovery.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 05, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M,. LOCAL TIME. AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, LOCATED IN MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M,. LOCAL TIME, ON JUNE 11, 2012 TO commercialwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp OR FACSIMILE TO (670) 664-4488

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

12th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 1:00 P.M.
BOE Conference Room
Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. Unfinished Business
1) School Calendar for SY 2012-2013
2) Whistle Blower Protection Policy Proposal
3) Sick Leave Policy Proposal

IV. New Business
1) CUC Billing
2) NMI Retirement Fund Issues
3) SY 2012-2013 Proposed Lunch Menu
4) Federal Programs Officer Salary Adjustment

V. Executive Session
1) Legal Updates
2) Personnel
3) Other matters

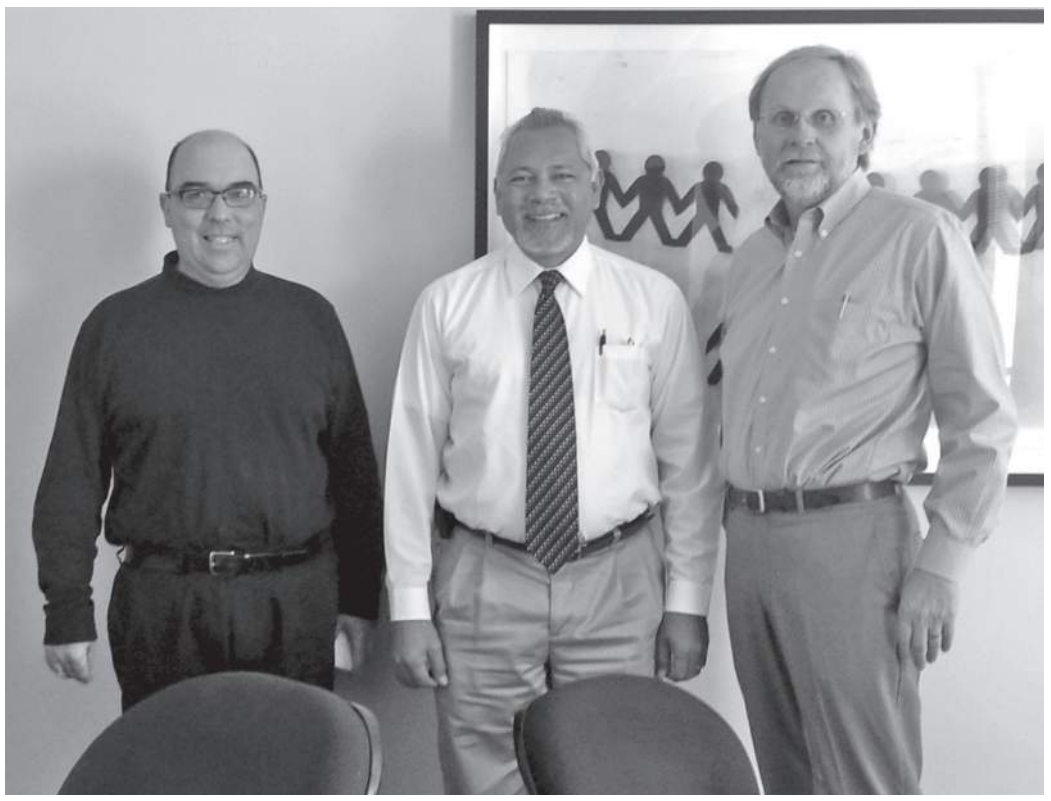
VI. Miscellaneous Matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

CNMI Office of Transit Authority gears up for full implementation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Paul Page, community planner; Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for public transportation; and Raymond Sukys, director for the Office of Planning and Program Development, FTA Region 9.

Good news is on its way for the people of the CNMI who do not have direct access to private transportation from home to work, school, or medical appointments, according to Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for public transportation.

Camacho is currently in California meeting with Raymond Sukys, director, Office of Planning and Program Development; Paul Page, community planner, and Audrey Bredehoft, transportation program specialists from Region 9 Federal Transit Authority to formally meet the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's federal grantor.

Camacho also received a brief orientation of the FTA process and discussed future funding for COTA's operation and management, as well as planning and expansion of transportation services in the Commonwealth, such as the current call-a-ride transportation service for people with disabilities and the man'amko; services to other residents or members of the community with limited to no access to transportation of their own; future fixed route system and revitalization of the ocean-going (ferry) vessel to serve our islands separated by water.

Camacho was joined by CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities executive director Pam Sablan.

The CNMI DD Council initiated the Transportation Project back in 2002, when it launched the CNMI Call-a-Ride Transportation Service for people with disabilities and the man'amko. The council is currently the subrecipient of Section 5310 FTA formula grant under a memorandum of agreement with the Public School System.

Currently the operation and management of the Saipan Call-a-Ride is contracted out to the August Healthcare Group, LLC since it won the bid in 2011 to operate the system under a one-year contract with the CNMI DD Council. Two of the new accessible vans were purchased by PSS using FTA funds for the call-a-ride transportation system. The two vans and the transportation contract will transition from PSS to COTA by the end of July.

Prior to the Region 9 FTA meeting in San Francisco, Camacho attended a three-day comprehensive training in Phoenix, Arizona on TEAMS (Transportation Electronic Award Management System) and ECHO (Electronic Clearing House Operation) System web online training for new FTA grantees.

"This is where we learned about what TEAMS and ECHO are about and how to access and use this online application and reporting system for our FTA formula grant, grant activity progress, financial monitoring, reporting and accessing as well as drawing down of funds or payment request," said Camacho.

Once all the preliminaries are completed, COTA will prepare and submit its FY2012 full amount of $1.1 million grant application. The formula grant application submission will be due on the first part of July 2012.

COTA was created under Public Law 17-43 signed by the Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on May 27, 2011.

On Aug. 11, 2011, Fitial officially created the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority within the Office of the Governor and concurrently appointed Camacho as the CNMI's first special assistant for public transportation.

Mandated by Public Law 17-43, a Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board was also created and Camacho, by virtue of the enactment of PL. 17-43 into law and his official appointment to serve on the board by Fitial, became the first chairman of CPTAB while the rest of the Commonwealth Public Transportation advisory board members were officially appointed in March this year.

The initial CPTAB meeting will be held upon the return of Camacho to introduce and orient new members of their roles and responsibilities as advisory board members, present COTA's approved organizational structure, expectations and plan of actions to be undertaken by COTA.

"During my tenure with the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, the council received recommendations from the public and realized that the CNMI lacked available, accessible and reliable transportation service for people with disabilities and older adults. As a result, a Transportation Initiative was adopted under the council's 5-year State Plan and started its services on Saipan, followed by Rota and Tinian. Today, because of the Council's efforts, Saipan continues to show increasing transportation demand, while Tinian and Rota have not due to lack of funding and unavailable data," said Camacho. "A new study will be undertaken by COTA to determine the level of public transportation needs on Rota and Tinian. In order to extend services to these two islands, we must first make a determination if a public transportation system is needed or if there is a demand."

With respect to the ocean-going passenger ferry system, COTA and the Department of Public Works will work closely together to conduct a feasibility study of the ferry system and if the study justifies the need to revitalize the ferry, COTA will then work on securing the funding necessary to purchase the ferry boat(s) and required operational funds from FTA.

For more information about COTA, call 664-2200 or email tom.camacho@gov.mp. ***(Office of the Governor)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to the greatest dad in the world, Manuel B. Kisa, who's celebrating his birthday today, May 30! Although some of us aren't there, we send you our love and wish you a fantastic birthday. We love you, Daddy! Greetings come from all your kids, sons, daughters-in-law and your grandchildren.

GOOD JOB!

Congratulations to Lee Ann Lustre Jastillana for being the 'Salutatorian' of Mt Carmel School, 8th Grade Yr 2011-2012"" From: Tito Den & Tita Inah

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 30, 2000

PSS could have done more for education

Summing up all funding requests that the CNMI government failed to grant the Public School System within the last 13 years, PSS could have spent over $185 million more for public education, according to PSS' 13-year budget history. Though PSS, which is entitled to 15 percent of the CNMI's annual revenues, has been getting substantially more than the pegged percentage, major differences can be noted in the system's budget requests versus what the government actually afforded them. In 1996 alone, the PSS budget history recorded a $44 million difference between its $74 million budget request and the $33 million that was granted to the autonomous agency. This was the year where PSS did not get its full 15-percent guarantee from the government's total revenues.

Bill defining power of municipal councils discussed

House Bill 12-141 proposes to provide administration and compensation of the Municipal Councils, and its members on the islands of Rota, Tinian, Saipan and the Northern Islands and to amend certain provisions of I CMC, Division 1, Chapter 4 (Power and Restrictions of the Municipal Council). Present during the public hearing conducted May 25 on Rota were Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operation, committee members, Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona, Kelvin T. Atalig, vice chair of the Rota Municipal Council, councilman Joe Rosario and resident directors and other officials. During his privilege speech, Abraham M. Ogo, chair of the Rota Municipal Council, has stressed his unflinching support and position that the proposed bill would retain their capacity to fully exercise their expected responsibilities to their constituents.

May 30, 2001

House overrides Teno's veto on Rota homestead

The House of Representatives yesterday overrode the governor's veto on the proposed Rota Agricultural Homestead Act, which stands to benefit more than 70 families on the island. But the override of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's veto did not come without what seemed hours of arguments between opposing directions at the House of Representatives. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider delivered a strongly worded argument supporting the governor's recommendations on the proposed measure.

CPA exceeds debt payment requirement

The level of revenues currently generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its aviation division has started showing signs of improvement, empowering its ability to comply with the $20 million airport bond indenture. After falling short to meeting the 125 percent debt coverage ratio requirement in the past, CPA managed to exceed the required debt service coverage by injecting additional revenues from its airport operation in March 2001. A report prepared for the CPA Board of Directors disclosed the 1.25 required debt coverage ratio has been exceeded by 0.47 percent, with CPA posting a whooping 1.72 for the month of March 2001.

May 30, 2002

Govt exploring options on Tinian ferry woes

Although he declined to discuss any specifics that could possibly give people false hopes in connection with the interrupted ferry service between Tinian and Saipan, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said his administration is now exploring all avenues to get the service back on track. In the wake of assurances by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino that the ferry service may perhaps resume this Friday, Babauta said that he has unilaterally initiated moves to look at all possible means to make the service available once more to the people of Saipan and Tinian. "We are now exploring ways to try and get at least one of the two ferries back in operation to service the commuters that depend on the ferries for transportation between Saipan and Tinian, especially those that are linked with the tourist industry and the people of Tinian, as well as the casino industry in Tinian," Babauta said yesterday. "That's our main concern.

Commerce department backs Camacho

The Department of Commerce yesterday rallied behind former banking director Oscar Camacho as the next receiver for the beleaguered Bank of Saipan, following the Supreme Court's decision to remove Randall Fennell from the post. Commerce officials said the department will push for the appointment of Camacho as temporary receiver for BoS. The commerce department touted Camacho's expertise in banking matters. He has worked for both private banking institutions and the government's banking agency.

Asiana Airlines celebrates 20 years of service to the CNMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Asiana Airlines, the only carrier of Korean tourists to the Northern Marianas, has vowed to continue providing quality air transportation service to meet the growing demands of one of the islands' emergent tourism markets as it celebrated its 20th last Sunday.

Company officials and staff led the brief and simple ceremony held at the departure terminal of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, which was attended by airline passengers and government officials who touted the event as momentous for the Commonwealth's travel industry.

"The people of the Commonwealth are grateful for the 20 years of service that Asiana has provided to the islands," said Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, noting that the number of Korean tourists visiting the CNMI has increased "dramatically" with the support of one of South Korea's major airlines. "Thank you for your support and we hope to continue this partnership."

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said that Asiana Airlines' two decades of service between Korea and the CNMI is a milestone for the islands and that the agency continues to work "very closely" with the airline and travel agents to stimulate this important market.

According to Tenorio, Korean tourists make up 25 percent of the Commonwealth's arrivals share, which is also composed of its biggest market, Japan, as well as China and Russia.

"Asiana Airlines is not only a carrier that brings in tourists but a carrier that has been committed to the CNMI for 20 years and we look forward to another 20 years of service to the islands," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sung Nam Park, regional manager for Asiana Airlines Saipan Regional Office, said in an interview before the ceremony that their company will not be able to provide passenger service between Korea and the Commonwealth without the "great support and assistance" of the island community.

Park noted that from having just three flights a week in 1992, Asiana Airlines now has 14 weekly flights or two daily flights between Saipan and Seoul via the Incheon International Airport. He said the number of flights goes up to 23 when they have charter flights.

By June, Asiana Airlines will begin its two additional flights from Busan and "I can say Korean market on Saipan will increase more," said Park. He added that their company also has plans to bring in Japanese tourists from Tokyo during the holiday season.

According to Park, Saipan is "very famous" among Korean travelers because of its reputation as a "family relaxation" destination, which serves as the island's advantage over other popular and nearby destinations such as Thailand.

Although the economic situation has affected local businesses, including Asiana Airlines' operations, Park maintained that the company "just keeps on going" by striving to provide better service that also focuses on passenger safety.

He pointed out that if Saipan enhances its hotels and other things that make it a good family-oriented destination, then more Korean tourists will visit the island.

"Thank you very much to all Saipan residents who have supported us. We will continue to do our best to provide you with safe and better service and also bring more passengers here where they can enjoy Saipan's peaceful atmosphere and nice weather," added Park.

Sunday's guests were entertained with local dance performances, followed by the presentation of the anniversary cake, which was cut by Park, Inos, Tenorio, and other dignitaries.

Headquartered in Seoul, Asiana Airlines provides domestic and international passenger and cargo service in various routes in many countries and cities via its 72 aircraft-fleet. Since its establishment, Asiana Airlines is "a company that realizes customer satisfaction and a service that is based on the customer's expectations."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Regional manager Sung Nam Park of Asiana Airlines Saipan Regional Office, fourth left, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third left, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, fifth right, lead dignitaries in the cutting of the cake as part of the celebration commemorating Asiana's 20 years of providing air passenger service between the CNMI and Korea in a ceremony held at the departure terminal of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Sunday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Local dancers provide entertainment to the Korean outbound passengers who took part in the celebration.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Korean tourists get their slice of the cake.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos expressed in his brief remarks his appreciation to Asiana Airlines for their two decades of service to the islands.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Asiana Airlines Saipan regional manager Sung Nam Park assures guests that their company will continue providing "safe and better service" in the years to come.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 127

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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A recipe to reduce the weight of our nation

By RHONA S. APPLEBAUM
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Over the past few weeks, experts met to discuss the "Weight of the Nation" at a conference in Washington, and HBO ran a series by the same name. Why all the attention? Because national statistics show the rates for overweight and obesity among adults and children are simply too high. We as a society need to raise awareness, work together, and find real solutions to bring these rates down.

As a mom and concerned citizen, I want not only the best for my son's future but I want the best for his generation, my generation and generations to come. I want to see everyone be active, healthy and smart about the lifestyle choices they make.

If we are really honest with ourselves, we know that no one group or sector can solve this problem alone and searching for a silver bullet that miraculously stops obesity is just not realistic. Targeting scapegoats or pointing fingers is simply a waste of energy. Instead, we should apply our energy to solutions that have been shown to work.

I have been working on the frontline of this issue for nearly two decades, and I'm quite certain of a few things. First, our current situation reflects a combination of how we eat and the ever increasing time we spend not moving. Second, we need to look at this problem holistically with focus on our communities in total. And third, we need to work with, and across, all sectors to develop and execute workable, comprehensive solutions.

For many Americans, the environment that surrounds them is not conducive to achieving active healthy lifestyles. A recent study by Church et al. (2011) concluded that over the last 50 years there has been a progressive decrease in the percent of men and women employed in occupations requiring at least moderate intensity physical activity. The resulting drops in occupation-related daily energy expenditure "accounts for a large portion of the observed increase in mean U.S. weight over the last five decades." Let's face it, today, too many Americans spend their days sitting at desks, working at computers, watching TV and driving cars.

The loss of physical education in our schools is both a travesty and a tragedy. Being "mesmerized with inactivity" is not good for our children's physical and mental health—not to mention their grades.

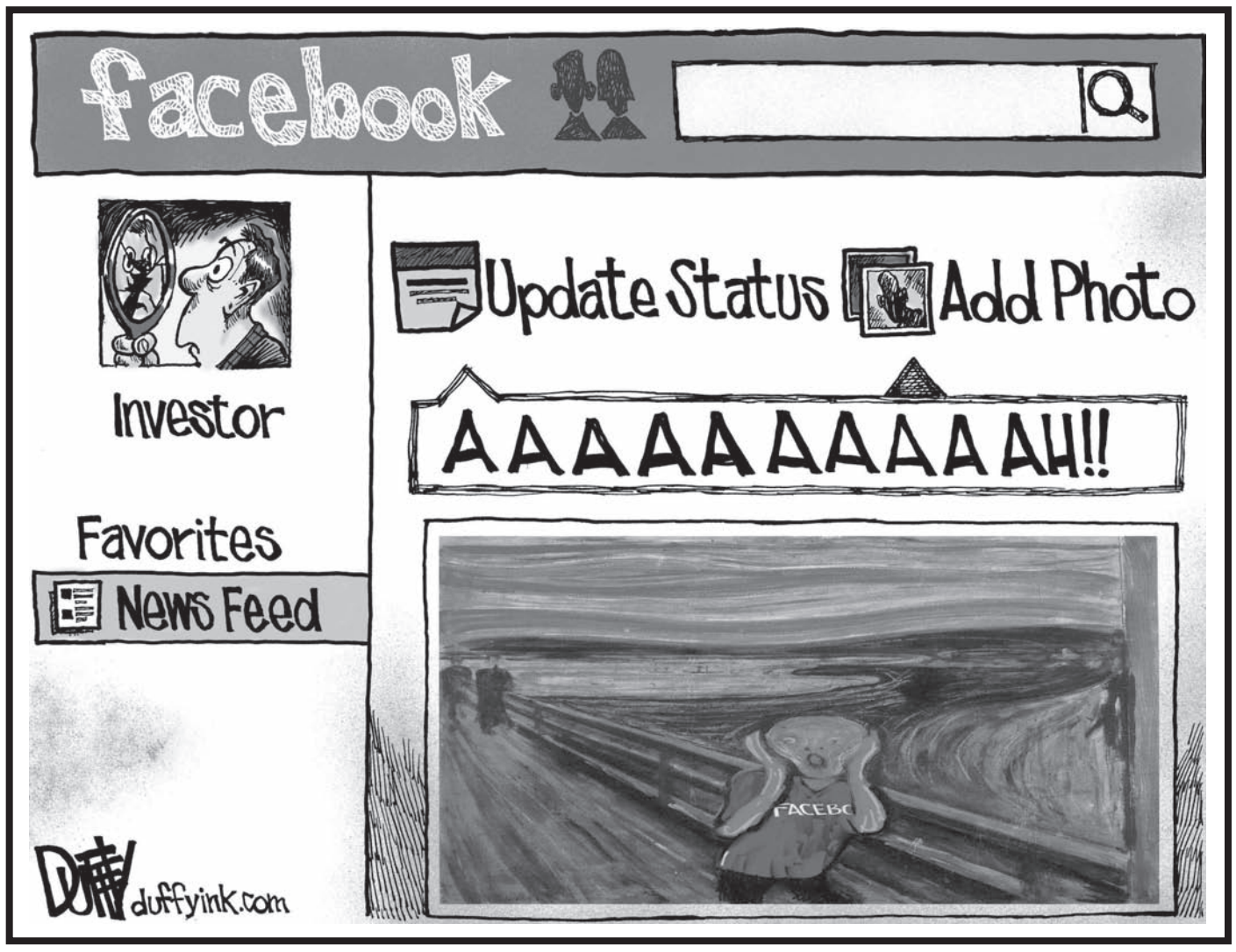
And when we talk about the diet, telling people that they have to give up things they love usually fails. Directives such as "avoid," "eliminate," or "stop" don't work to change behaviors. Rather, let's focus on the "how," "how much" and "how often" when giving the public dietary advice.

Coca-Cola clearly has a role to play in developing product solutions. Helping people manage their calories isn't a new idea to us. In 1963, we launched low-calorie Tab. And today, the total number of diet and light drink brands we sell in the United States is more than 150.

But it's not just about options—it's also about information. In 2009 we added calorie amounts on the front of nearly all of our packages to make it easier for people to choose beverages that are right for them. And the t.5 oz. mini can is designed to help people manage their portions. These steps are just the beginning; we'll be doing even more in the coming year.

What people eat and drink is only part of the weight management equation. As a society we must support programs that promote exercise. National leaders like Michelle Obama set the right example, tapping celebrities like Beyonce to remind children that activities such as dance can be just as entertaining as a video game. Recess

See RECIPE on Next Page



Egyptian voters send clear message

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

CAIRO—Last week, Egyptian voters delivered a stunning setback to the Islamist candidate for president, who had anticipated an electoral triumph so great that it would catapult his movement to power throughout the Middle East.

True, Mohammed Morsi, the standard-bearer of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice party, won the most votes out of a field of 13 in Egypt's first free presidential elections. But, despite the Brotherhood's organizational talents, Morsi collected only around a quarter of the votes and barely bested two secular candidates who came in close behind him. He will face one of them in a runoff on June 16 and 17.

Even though religion is an integral part of Egyptian life, voters pushed back against an Islamist party that wanted to control all of Egypt's institutions.

In recent weeks, some Brotherhood leaders had expressed the hope that they, along with other branches of their 82-year-old movement, could re-establish the Muslim caliphate that disappeared after the end of the Ottoman Empire.

The bulk of Egyptian voters—who face rampant unemployment, inflation, and street crime—made clear that they had more practical concerns on their mind.

It is still possible that Morsi will win the runoff, for complex reasons I'll explain in a minute. But first, you need to understand the sophistication and intelligence that newbie Egyptian democrats displayed at the polls.

Last fall, in parliamentary elections, 47 percent of the seats went to the Brotherhood party and about 25 percent went to ultraconservative Muslim Salafist parties; many Egyptians believed that Islamist parties would be honest, incorruptible, and concerned about the public's welfare.

But when I went around last week to working-class districts of Cairo, such as Imbaba and Saida Zeinab, which had voted heavily for Brotherhood candidates for parliament, nearly all the people I met said they wouldn't make the same mistake again.

Two themes were repeated over and over as reasons to reject the Islamists. Some voters were angry at the Brotherhood for breaking its pledge not to run a candidate for president. "If one group controls everything, the parliament and president, then we go back to the old way like (deposed President Hosni) Mubarak," said house painter Shaaban Abdullah. "We need balance."

Even more common was the complaint of carpenter Saad Mohammed, who said, "We gave them their chance, but they just talk and don't do anything. We hoped for security and jobs. This country is in chaos and it needs someone with a strong hand in control."

This yen for a strong hand helps explain the second-place finish of Ahmed Shafiq (although the count was still incomplete at this writing). A former military man who was the last prime minister under Mubarak, he was backed by the army, which could turn out the vote from its members and their families. And he got strong support from Coptic Christians, who fear they will suffer from a government under Brotherhood control.

But those Egyptians who rejected both the Islamists and any candidate linked to Mubarak turned to three other candidates who clustered behind Morsi and Shafiq. Many endorsed Hamdeen Sabahi, a leftist and nationalist, who was considered the closest to the Tahrir Square revolt. He nearly overtook Shafiq in a late surge. Some turned to a more moderate and independent Islamist, Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, who had been ousted from the Brotherhood. Others voted for an ex-foreign minister under Mubarak, Amr Moussa, who was considered less tainted than Shafiq.

The bottom line: The vast bulk of voters, religious or not, rejected Morsi, and the Brotherhood was seen as overly domineering, dishonest, or too preoccupied with imposing new restrictions on women—rather than focusing on the economy. The airwaves were filled with interviews with former senior Brotherhood members who had quit because they thought the organization was too undemocratic, with a tight hierarchy loyal to the Brotherhood's leader, known as the supreme guide.

Unfortunately, a second round that pits Morsi against Shafiq will be viewed as a battle between the Islamists and the remnants of the Mubarak era, the so-called faloul. That will repel millions of Egyptians who wanted neither remnants nor Islamists. Many may choose not to vote—and some may return to Tahrir Square in protest. If the non-Islamists abandon the ballot, this could enable Morsi to win.

Still, it is important to consider the message of this election: The Muslim Brotherhood is not invincible, despite its triumphalism. Had voters been offered one strong candidate who was neither faloul nor Islamist, rather than several, that candidate would have won. This is a warning that the Brotherhood can ignore only at its peril.

Rather than go back to the streets, the Tahrir Square revolutionaries would be better off demanding that the remaining candidates be more inclusive, and developing one strong party for the future. If they did so, they would start with this clear advantage:

Egyptians have shown they won't tolerate an Islamist party that wants to treat Egypt as if it were Iran.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Contest: Kilili vs Demapan

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The race for the Washington Delegate Office involves a veteran (Gregorio C. Sablan or amiably known as Kilili) and newcomer Ignacia T. Demapan.

Kilili has been around the block and memorizes his friends and foes in the local political arena. He's the more experienced warrior than his new nemesis, Demapan. Both are good folks whose packages—good and bad—we must open before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The question is: Who's endowed with greater fire in the belly to define representation of these isles in Washington? Is there philosophical and ideological differences in their views on entitlement programs or stifling regulations that create lordship as to derail the basic tenet of the "consent of the governed"?

Demapan could ably articulate her ideas and paradigms on the more substantive issues beyond securing Obama handouts to states and territories. I'm sure she'd sail smoothly in pinning educated discussion of relevant matters. She's highly educated but hardly highly visible politically, an advantage Kilili enjoys today.

But Demapan also hails from a large family that was once active in politics. This should be a plus for her candidacy. I've heard her speak and relish her fluid ability in the rock solid articulation of issues. Refreshing! Perhaps, I must have been listening to political dinosaurs.

Furthermore, she would have to spread her wings and bring her ideas and articulate them sufficiently and convincingly to the voters when she heads out to the campaign trail. Only she could do this and answer all relevant questions. I'm sure she'd even bring some pleasant surprises for voters to think about as the election year heats up. She's in control of a very sharp mind or intellectual acuity.

Being an issue-oriented person, it would be refreshing to see the two political matadors shake their booties on how they view the liberal progressive policies of the Obama administration. His agenda may seem attractive on entitlement programs, but aren't they also the very vehicle that weakens the enthusiasm of folks across the country who actually believe in the stronger pillars of conservatism or personal freedom and industry? Let this be an introductory volley for the upcoming debates of the two giants.

Finally, there's the concept of "equal rights," which prompts the query: Have U.S. citizens on these isles been accorded the same rights as U.S. mainland citizens? I expect mature and fully rounded answers from both matadors.

■ ■ ■

Enduring fiscal colossus

Buddy Magoo insists that I keep my trap shut. He doesn't want any noise "when the big boys are snoring" immediately after a huge bone soup lunch.

"You see, our leaders are resting after a long night of trumping their cards to find answers to our dry coffers," he said, adding, "and they also drowned their frustration with lots of beer to ease their tired mind."

"Perhaps they have answers after decades of skirting what's known as 'counterintuitive' measures to ease the unintended consequences of feel-good policies," said Marian Pindeha.

"Stop giving me terms that I don't understand like 'counterrespetik,'" complained Magoo.

"Pal, the term 'counterintuitive' simply means the more thoughtful measures leadership has purposely skipped for fear of making unpopular decisions," she pointed out.

"Can you give me an example of what do you mean?" quizzed Magoo.

"Funding was overlooked for 32 long years by a homophobic bunch," said Marian Pindeha.

"Eh, can we please speak simple Iñglis lai?" pleaded Magoo.

"The term simply means the guys had unjustified fear setting the issue right," noted Maria.

"So the NMI is broke, how then do we return to the days of prosperity?" asked Magoo.

"Not for quite awhile, pal, for there remain issues we must resolve internally like policy matters capable of signaling to investors that the pillar of equal protection has a strong foundation already in place," said Marian Pindeha.

"Eh, how long would that take?" asked Magoo.

"If you wake up your snoozing friends, we can start today, yeah?" adding, "a prolonged fiscal colossus is on its way, sleeping on the job isn't an option," said Ms. Pindeha.

■ ■ ■

Architects of ignorance

It's factually correct that both Tinian and Rota never had what's known in planning as the "basic infrastructure" (wealthy players) to support the local casino industry. We ask the same question: Does Saipan have at least a million wealthy folks who could dispose of their income to ascertain a sure-footed survival of the planned casino industry here?

Isn't it true that a survey of Japanese tourists clearly indicates a preference deferring to the cultural essence of the NMI over casino? Why then would legislators flush or trash the cultural essence of the NMI in favor of superficial glitz and glamour?

Is this the depth of their view in addition to demonstrating specialty with foot-in-mouth? Why would you peddle tax mirage in a woefully bad business climate? Perhaps the bloviating ignoramuses from the Legislature can offer their infinite wisdom on these issues, di ba? No worries. I'll pull your tail out so you could lamely show some sense of weak-kneed courage.

Devaluing a life

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

At 6 years old, a little girl named Ashley had her breast buds and uterus cut out of her body in order to keep her permanently child-like. Additionally, she was forced to undergo estrogen treatment to stop her growth so that her body would remain small, making it easier for her parents to provide her care in what is almost certain to be a shortened life.

The so-called Ashley treatment (as it is now known) is not fiction, but rather a true-life, American story that received worldwide attention a mere five years ago. Sadly, there is evidence to suggest that this practice is spreading; in fact, Ashley's "parents report that they have been contacted by thousands of families interested in the treatment and they believe that at least a hundred children have undergone the same treatment."

In a recent report, Devaluing People with Disabilities: Medical Procedures that Violate Civil Rights, released by the National Disability Rights Network, its executive director, Curt Decker, says: "Right now, somewhere in America, parents or guardians are sitting down with a doctor to discuss withholding life sustaining medical treatment in situations where there is no terminal disease or removing their child's sex organs, breasts buds, and stunting growth with hormone treatments." In fact, NDRN has uncovered some cases wherein some parents who can no longer bear the "burden" of caring for their children have withheld "medical treatment and even basic food and water during minor illnesses with the intent of letting the illness progress until death"—in at least one case of a 13-year-old boy, the parents got their wish and the boy died.

The question then has to be why? And how, in our modern day, can such things be happening? The answer per referenced report is simply, "because the persons being considered are viewed as having little value as they are. They are considered not as fully human, endowed with inalienable rights of liberty, privacy, and the right to be left alone—solely because they were born with a disability." The assumption is that certain individuals with disabilities lack any awareness; thus would not be concerned about the quality of their own lives. Of course, we all know what it means to assume.

For advocates at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. or NMPASI, the cases of devaluing the life of an individual with a disability are not always so profound, but they exist nonetheless. In some cases, it's the mere act of restricting people from making their own decisions about what they may or may not want to do, for others it's the purposeful act of taking away what little they have in monetary benefits and there are those kept hostage in the backrooms of our villages without any access to the community whatsoever. Like NDRN, NMPASI maintains that, "Every person is born with civil and human rights and an inherent dignity." As Mr. Decker points out, "The reality that [things like these are] happening in the United States is anathema to the core values that we as Americans say we hold. That it is happening to those unable to use their own voice is even worse." At the very least, "performing certain medical procedures or withholding life sustaining treatment in non-terminal situations without judicial review violates the civil rights of people with disabilities."

NMPASI can bring attention to disability-related issues and perform critical "watchdog" functions to ensure that the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities are protected; however, "reducing the risk [of rights violations] is the responsibility of us all: families, service agencies, forensic personnel, legislators, the individuals with disabilities themselves, and others."

For more on NDRN's report, Devaluing People with Disabilities: Medical Procedures that Violate Civil Rights, contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or check us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Letter to the Editor

Active employees: HB 17- 226 the only option

If you read the article in Monday's *Tribune* carefully ("Inos: Modified HB 17-226 will allow withdrawal of leftovers") you saw this sentence: "The amount of withdrawals, however, is not up to 50 percent of the contributions but whatever is left after a buyback into Social Security."

This means that after the government uses your contributions (they need $60 million) to buy you just five years of Social Security, they will let you withdraw what is "left over."

Social Security reality—the average monthly Social Security payment for a person working and paying into the system from age 21 to 66 is only $1,230. That is for 33 years of service, not five. See http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/13/~/average-monthly-social-security-benefit-for-a-retired-worker.

HB 17-226 is obviously in our best interest. Fifty percent of your total contributions refunded, 50 percent moved into the DC plan.

This week the House and the Senate will meet to determine whether they will override the governor's veto of HB 17-226. Please email or call them now to let you know you support an override!

■ Email House Committee members: Felicidad Ogumoro, George Camacho, Terisita Santos (http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/members.asp?secID=1&legsID=17) Ph: 664-8836

■ Email Senate members: Jovita Taimanao, Ralph Torres, Jude Hofschneider (http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/members.asp?secID=2&legsID=17) Ph: 664-8858

Remember, the current retirees need us out of the system. We represent an unfunded liability of over $1 billion. Perfect example: if Chapter 11 was able to make the government pay the Fund the $300 million judgment, it would be enough to pay each current retiree until they die but would not come close to covering our own retirement.

We can't afford to continue to pay into a system that has no hope of return for us. We are not asking for retirement benefits. We are only asking for the money we put in.

Mark Staal
As Matuis, Saipan

RECIPE

From Page 10

and physical education must be maintained and increased in schools. These programs are critical to instilling an enjoyment of exercise that they will carry through the rest of their lives.

Having an active, healthy and happy population is at the heart of our collective best interest and is not an impossible goal. We can achieve anything if we work together. That's how we, as a society, successfully dealt with problems in the past—and that's what we need to do now. Rather than continuing to advance ideologies that haven't worked, let's tap into our nation's brilliance and energy to build communities that encourage physical activity and support programs that motivate sensible, balanced eating and other healthy behaviors.

My hope is that we all make the same commitment to target solutions that will actually begin to reduce the weight of our nation.

Rhona S. Applebaum is vice president and chief scientific and regulatory officer at The Coca-Cola Co. Readers may write to her at: Coca-Cola Co., One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, Ga. 30309; email: rapplebaum@coca-cola.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲86 ° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

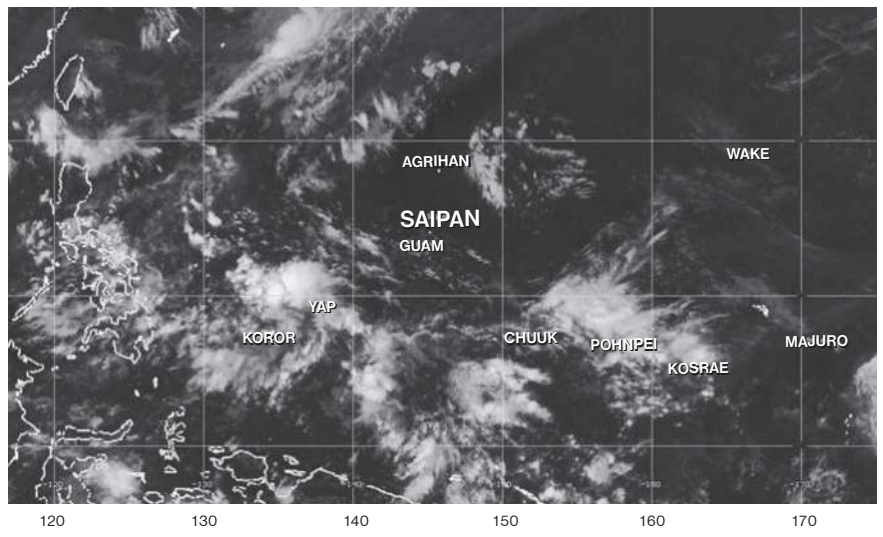
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲88	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲84	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
London	Showers	▲65	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲86	▼64
Osaka	Cloudy	▲77	▼61
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Pusan	Showers	▲73	▼61
Rome	Sunny	▲80	▼59
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼50
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲79	▼62
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough enters the discussion area near 13N130E and continues eastward to a weak circulation north of Palau near 12N135 than turns southeastward to a second circulation southeast of Yap near 4N145E then continues east to 3N154E than turns southeast to exit the discussion area near the equator at 158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found over Palau and over Yap between 8N and 12N from 132E to 140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also south of the trough between 3N and 7N from 130E to 138E. More scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the second circulation or between the equator and 7N from 140E to 152E. An upper-level low is located northeast of the Marianas near 18N151E and is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 16N and 21N from 147E to 151E. An upper-level trough extends south from the low to 6N148E. Upper-level divergence east of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over portions of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between 7N and 11N from 152E to 155E and between 1N and 10N from 155E to 163E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers east of Majuro between the equator and 7N form 175E to 180. A surface trough extends from 19N139E to 25N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found within 100 miles of the trough.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
3:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:25 PM	12:56 AM
Thursday	2:22 PM	1:39 AM
Friday	3:22 PM	2:26 AM
Saturday	4:24 PM	3:16 AM
Sunday	5:29 PM	4:11 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Japan farmers plant, pray for radiation-free rice

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Last year's crop sits in storage, deemed unsafe to eat, but Toraaki Ogata is back at his rice paddies, driving his tractor trailing neat rows of seedlings. He's living up to his family's proud, six-generation history of rice farming, and praying that this time his harvest will not have too much radiation to sell.

That conflict is shared by several thousand farmers in more than 7,000 hectares (17,000 acres) of Fukushima, where some of last year's harvest exceeded government safety standards because of radiation released when the March 2011 tsunami set off the world's second-worst nuclear accident.

For their rice to be sold, it will have to be tested—every grain of it.

"All I can do is pray there will be no radiation," Ogata, 58, said last week, wiping his sweat during a break in his 1.5-hectare paddy 60 kilometers (35 miles) from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. "It's not our fault at all, but the land of our ancestors has been defiled."

Rice farming is almost sacred in rural Japan, and the government protects farmers with tight restrictions on imports. Many farmers are too close to the nuclear disaster to return to the fields, but others have gotten the go-ahead, even with the risk their harvests may end up being too radiated to ship.

Hopes are high in this major agricultural northeastern prefecture (state) that farmers will meet the unprecedented challenge of producing safe-to-eat rice in contaminated soil. Following orders from the government, they have sprinkled zeolite, a pebble-like material that traps radioactive cesium, and added fertilizer with potassium to help block radiation absorption. That work is part of the 100 billion yen ($1.3 billion) Tokyo has allocated for decontamination efforts this year.

There had been no time for that last year. Tens of thousands of bags of rice from that harvest were too radiated to be sold. The government bought those crops, which sit in giant mounds in storage.

Rice planting has been banned in the most contaminated areas, but the government allowed it at some farms in areas that produced contaminated rice last year, including Ogata's. After the October harvest, their rice will be run through special machines that can detect the tiniest speck of radiation.

Ogata is filled with uncertainty. Though the government recently set up a system to buy and destroy his crop from last year, he has no assurances that it will do so again if this year's rice can't be eaten.

AP

In this May 21, 2012 photo, Toraaki Ogata drives a tractor to plant rice saplings in a paddy field in Fukushima, northeastern Japan.

He also doesn't know which experts to believe. Scientists often come to Fukushima to discuss radiation at neighborhood meetings, but some say there will be no health effects at all, while others say tens of thousands may get sick.

Radiation is expected to decline year by year. But Ogata and other farmers acknowledge they are in for a long haul.

Japan has a safety limit of radiation exposure at 1 millisievert per year, although some areas in Fukushima measure higher at about 20 millisieverts. A 20-kilometer (12-mile) no-go zone was set around the nuclear plant, displacing some 100,000 people.

Right next to the no-go zone, in Minami Soma, 135 farms have been granted special permission to plant rice as an experiment but on the condition that all rice, regardless of radiation levels, will be destroyed.

"We couldn't even plant last year. We are doing everything we can as a whole town so we will be growing rice next year," said Yukio Nishi, a Minami Soma agricultural cooperative official.

The government toughened its restrictions on radiation in rice and other food from April to 100 becquerels a kilogram (2 pounds) from the emergency 500 becquerels set in March last year. The limits are lower for milk, baby food and drinking water.

Medical experts say risks from low-dose radiation can't be ruled out, but it may be impossible to prove whether a person got cancer from radiation or something else.

Exposure is cumulative and differs among individuals, depending on size and age, diet and habits. Certain foods, such as mushrooms and bamboo shoots, tend to be high in radition. And children are more susceptible to radiation-related sicknesses.

"The balance that the government is now trying to strike is between allowing people to stay in the Fukushima area and recover their lives, and keeping the rest of Japan happy about buying food," said Edward Lazo, who advises Fukushima as a radiation expert at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency. "And that's a really difficult job."

RIM loses another senior executive

TORONTO (AP)—Struggling BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion Ltd. said Monday that it is losing another senior executive as its chief legal officer is retiring from the company after 12 years.

RIM said that Karima Bawa had been in discussions about her retirement for some time and plans to stay on to help with the transition once a replacement has been hired.

The once-iconic BlackBerry company is facing its most difficult period in its history. RIM is working on launching a new software operating system just as North Americans are abandoning their BlackBerry's for Apple's iPhone and smart phones that run Google's Android software.

The latest departure also comes as RIM is reportedly about to announce a restructuring that could result in thousands of job cuts. The Globe and Mail, citing people close to the company that it didn't identify, reported RIM will soon announce at least 2,000 layoffs.

A RIM spokeswoman declined comment on the report but noted that new chief executive Thorsten Heins said in late March that he would streamline operations and drive efficiency and that the chief financial officer said RIM's goal is to save $1 billion this fiscal year.

RIM has about 16,500 employees, down from a peak of almost 20,000. The Waterloo, Ontario-based company let go 2,000 workers last July.

The retirement also follows the departure last week of Patrick Spence, RIM's head of global sales. A number of executives left earlier this year, including founder Mike Lazaridis and co-chief executive Jim Balsillie. Lazaridis remains on the board.

Heins became RIM's chief executive in January after RIM lost tens of billions in market value.

Spanish PM insists banks won't need EU rescue

MADRID (AP)—Conservative Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy insisted Monday that the country's banking sector would not need an international rescue as concern over the bailout of nationalized lender Bankia sent its stock price plummeting while Spain's borrowing costs soared.

"There will be no rescue of the Spanish banking sector," Rajoy told a press conference.

However, he added that the government had no choice but to bail out Bankia, which has been crippled by Spain's real estate slump.

"We took the bull by the horns because the alternative was collapse," said Rajoy, stressing that Bankia clients' savings were now safer than ever.

Bankia, Spain's fourth-largest bank, is estimated to have (EURO)32 billion in toxic assets and was effectively nationalized earlier this month when the government converted (EURO)4.5 billion in rescue funds it gave last June into shares.

The lender's shares fell 28 percent on opening in Madrid on Monday—Bankia's first day back on the stock exchange following its announcement Friday that it would need the (EURO)19 billion ($23.8 billion) in state aid to shore itself up against its bad loans, a far bigger bailout than expected. The shares, which recovered slightly in the afternoon, closed 13.4 percent lower at (EURO)1.36.

Bank of Spain estimates show Spain's lenders are sitting on some (EURO)180 billion ($233 billion) in assets that could cause them losses. The government fears the cost of rescuing the country's vulnerable banks could overwhelm its own finances, which are already strained by a double-dip recession and an unemployment rate of nearly 25 percent, and force it to seek a rescue by the rest of Europe.

Among the chief concerns surrounding Bankia's request for state aid—the largest in Spanish history—is just how Spain plans to fund it. The country's borrowing costs have risen sharply over the past few weeks.

New approach tested for hard-to-treat hypertension

WASHINGTON (AP)—"Maxed out on the medications," is how Bill Ezzell describes his struggle with blood pressure. It's dangerously high even though the North Carolina man swallows six different drugs a day.

Hypertension may be the nation's sneakiest epidemic, a time bomb that's a leading cause of heart attacks, strokes and kidney failure, and one that's growing worse as the population rapidly grows older.

Despite an arsenal of drugs, millions of people in the United States can't get their blood pressure down to safe levels. Now, in a high-stakes experiment at dozens of hospitals, scientists are testing a dramatically different approach for the toughest to treat patients, by burning away some overactive nerves deep in the body that can fuel rising blood pressure.

To attempt an invasive treatment—a catheter is threaded through blood vessels in the groin up to the kidneys—reflects doctors' frustration with a disease that too often is underrated because people with it don't look or feel sick until a lot of damage has been done.

Pharmaceutical therapies have been the cornerstone of medicine for nearly a century, offering convenient, noninvasive treatment for countless diseases. But when it comes to some of the most stubborn chronic conditions, including diabetes, obesity and hypertension, medications too often aren't enough.

Researchers increasingly are trying medical devices and minimally invasive surgeries to help, such as stomach-shrinking techniques that improve obesity-caused diabetes and the new hypertension experiment.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,454.83	1,317.82	2,837.53
-74.92	-2.86	-1.85
-0.60%	-0.22%	-0.07%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0153	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7628	Philippine Peso	44.1306
British Pound	0.6373	Indian Rupee	55.7414	Singapore Dollar	1.2764
Canadian Dollar	1.0249	Indonesian Rupiah	9,433.9	South Korean Won	1,205.5
Chinese Yuan	6.3416	Japanese Yen	79.4281	Swiss Franc	0.9566
Euro	0.7957	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2015	Taiwan Dollar	29.6472
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3136	Thailand Baht	31.6456

Nation

Radioactive bluefin tuna crossed the Pacific to US

LOSANGELES(AP)—Across the vast Pacific, the mighty bluefin tuna carried radioactive contamination that leaked from Japan's crippled nuclear plant to the shores of the United States 6,000 miles away—the first time a huge migrating fish has been shown to carry radioactivity such a distance.

"We were frankly kind of startled," said Nicholas Fisher, one of the researchers reporting the findings online Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The levels of radioactive cesium were 10 times higher than the amount measured in tuna off the California coast in previous years. But even so, that's still far below safe-to-eat limits set by the U.S. and Japanese governments.

Previously, smaller fish and plankton were found with elevated levels of radiation in Japanese waters after a magnitude-9 earthquake in March 2011 triggered a tsunami that badly damaged the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors.

But scientists did not expect the nuclear fallout to linger in huge fish that sail the world because such fish can metabolize and shed radioactive substances.

AP

This March 5, 2007 file photo shows workers harvesting bluefin tuna from Maricultura's tuna pens near Ensenada, Mexico.

One of the largest and speediest fish, Pacific bluefin tuna can grow to 10 feet and weigh more than 1,000 pounds. They spawn off the Japan coast and swim east at breakneck speed to school in waters off California and the tip of Baja California, Mexico.

Five months after the Fukushima disaster, Fisher of Stony Brook University in New York and a team decided to test Pacific bluefin that were caught off the coast of San Diego. To their surprise, tissue samples from all 15 tuna captured contained levels of two radioactive substances—ceisum-134 and cesium-137—that were higher than in previous catches.

To rule out the possibility that the radiation was carried by ocean currents or deposited in the sea through the atmosphere, the team also analyzed yellowfin tuna, found in the eastern Pacific, and bluefin that migrated to Southern California before the nuclear crisis. They found no trace of cesium-134 and only background levels of cesium-137 left over from nuclear weapons testing in the 1960s.

The results "are unequivocal. Fukushima was the source," said Ken Buesseler of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, who had no role in the research.

Bluefin tuna absorbed radioactive cesium from swimming in contaminated waters and feeding on contaminated prey such as krill and squid, the scientists said. As the predators made the journey east, they shed some of the radiation through metabolism and as they grew larger. Even so, they weren't able to completely flush out all the contamination from their system.

"That's a big ocean. To swim across it and still retain these radionuclides is pretty amazing," Fisher said.

Pacific bluefin tuna are prized in Japan where a thin slice of the tender red meat prepared as sushi can fetch $24 per piece at top Tokyo restaurants. Japanese consume 80 percent of the world's Pacific and Atlantic bluefin tuna.

The real test of how radioactivity affects tuna populations comes this summer when researchers planned to repeat the study with a larger number of samples. Bluefin tuna that journeyed last year were exposed to radiation for about a month. The upcoming travelers have been swimming in radioactive waters for a longer period. How this will affect concentrations of contamination remains to be seen.

Now that scientists know that bluefin tuna can transport radiation, they also want to track the movements of other migratory species including sea turtles, sharks and seabirds.

Ga. woman battling flesh-eating bacteria speaks

ATLANTA (AP)—A young Georgia woman battling a flesh-eating disease could hardly believe it when she was able to speak Sunday for the first time since she was taken to an Augusta hospital more than three weeks ago, her father said Monday.

"Hello. Whoa. Wow, my mind is blown," were Aimee Copeland's first words Sunday morning to her sister and mother, her father said in a phone interview Monday with The Associated Press. Andy Copeland was in church at the time and had to wait until a later visitation time Sunday evening to hear his daughter's voice.

The 24-year-old developed necrotizing fasciitis after cutting her leg in a May 1 fall from a homemade zip line over a west Georgia river. Her left leg, other foot and both hands have been amputated.

AP

This undated photo provided by the family shows Aimee Copeland, the 24-year-old Georgia graduate student fighting to survive a flesh-eating bacterial infection that she contracted after an accident.

When her father finally got into Copeland's room around 5 p.m. Sunday, he asked her how she felt. He said he was thrilled to hear her respond, "It feels weird being able to talk."

Copeland began breathing on her own early last week and the ventilator was wheeled out of her room on Thursday, the same day she was able to sit up in a chair on her own. She no longer has tubes in her nose and is down to three IVs from an initial 12, her father said.

She also is finally able to eat soft foods. A vegetarian, she had a tall breakfast order for her mother on Monday: veggie sausage, a biscuit, white gravy, a fried egg over easy and fresh fruit.

"She'll probably eat one bite," said Copeland's mother, Donna. "But sure I'm going to make it. What mother wouldn't make it?"

Copeland's voice is weak and raspy, her father said, but she has been joking with family, talking about her life at the hospital and asking what everyone else has been up to.

A graduate student in psychology at the University of West Georgia, Copeland contracted the rare infection days after she suffered a deep cut May 1 when a zip line snapped over rocks in the Little Tallapoosa River.

Doctors at the local emergency room in Carrollton closed the wound with nearly two dozen staples, but it became infected within days. On May 4, she was diagnosed with the rare infection and flown 200 miles to Augusta for treatment by specialists at Doctors Hospital.

Obama says Vietnam veterans too often 'denigrated'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama paid tribute Monday to the men and women who have died defending America, pointing to Vietnam veterans as an under-appreciated and sometimes maligned group of war heroes who remained true to their nation despite an unwelcome homecoming.

"You were sometimes blamed for the misdeeds of a few," Obama said at the Vietnam War Memorial. "You came home and were sometimes denigrated when you should have been celebrated. It was a national shame, a disgrace that should have never happened."

"Even though some Americans turned their backs on you, you never turned your back on America," Obama said.

Marking Memorial Day at both the black granite wall honoring more than 58,000 soldiers who died in the Vietnam War and earlier at Arlington National Cemetery across the Potomac River from the capital, Obama noted that for the first time in nine years, "Americans are not fighting and dying in Iraq," and the nation was winding down its role in the conflict in Afghanistan.

"After a decade under the dark cloud of war, we can see the light of the new day on the horizon," Obama said to an audience gathered at the Arlington amphitheater lined with American flags under a warm, brilliant sun.

In this election year, Obama said the nation must remain committed to providing for the families of fallen soldiers and help returning service members seeking a job, higher education or health care benefits.

"As long as I'm president, we will make sure you and your loved ones will receive the benefits you've earned and the respect you deserve," Obama said. "America will be there for you."

Obama said sending troops into harm's way was "the most wrenching decision that I have to make. And I can promise you I will never do so unless it's absolutely necessary."

As he seeks re-election, Obama has reminded audiences about the end of the war in Iraq and the move to bring all troops home from Afghanistan by 2014. And in a campaign ad released last week, he credits U.S. servicemen who helped in the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Despite downgrade, Beryl still soaks Memorial Day

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Joyce Connolly and her daughters left their home in Hurricane, W.Va., to head south for a Memorial Day beach vacation—and ended up in the center of Tropical Storm Beryl.

While it left little damage after sweeping ashore with 70 mph winds around midnight Sunday at Jacksonville, Fla., the storm still wrecked much of Connolly's trip. She skipped a graduation ceremony because powerful winds kept her and her daughters from venturing past the beach boardwalk when the storm approached Sunday. She also postponed their drive home Monday as Beryl, downgraded to a tropical depression, continued to dump rain near the Georgia-Florida state line.

"It definitely changed our vacation to unfortunate circumstances that we're not happy with. But you just have to live with it," said Connolly, who at least found the irony of her hometown's name "pretty funny."

Beach trips, backyard barbecues and graveside Memorial Day observances got a good soaking in southeastern Georgia and northern Florida.

Beach lifeguards turned swimmers away from the ocean because of dangerous rip currents from Jacksonville to Tybee Island, Georgia's largest public beach 140 miles to the north. Skip Sasser, who oversees the island's lifeguards as its fire chief, said beach traffic was unusually thin for a holiday. The ocean was declared off-limits to swimmers for a second day in a row.

"It's been raining intermittently, so it's chased a lot of them off," Sasser said. "There was a lot of traffic this morning heading westbound out of Tybee."

Veterans groups, meanwhile, carried out outdoor Memorial Day ceremonies despite the grim forecast.

At Savannah's historic Bonaventure Cemetery—made famous by the book, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil"—American Legion members worked through a downpour to make sure its plot for veterans had a small American flag planted by each headstone.

"When we were setting up, I had a different shirt on and I got soaked to the skin. My socks and my underwear probably are, too," said Jim Grismer, commander of American Legion Post 135 in Savannah. "I had so many people trying to talk me into moving it inside. But I said then you can't have the live firing salute and the flag raising."

Asia

Japan's ex-PM: I was frightened by nuclear crisis

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's leader felt fearful and helpless during last year's nuclear disaster and lacked experts capable of giving him guidance, he testified Monday in his first response to a public investigative inquiry on the crisis.

Naoto Kan resigned in September after being criticized for government failures during the disaster. He told the parliamentary panel he felt afraid when nuclear officials kept failing to explain conditions at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, where three reactors melted down following the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011.

Kan also said the country's nuclear emergency preparedness law, set up in 1999 after a fatal accident at a nuclear fuel processing plant, did not address a severe accident that would require hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate, as in Fukushima.

"Everything anticipated in the law was inadequate, and we had to go through all kinds of troubles that we didn't need," he said. For instance, the plant's off-site crisis management center, which had no protection for radiation or backup power, had to be abandoned.

Kan said nuclear officials sent from government offices and the utility operating the plant as his advisers were not useful, and he never received the kind of information he needed. Japan's main regulatory body, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, was particularly incapable, he said.

"I was frightened and felt helpless," he said. "You can't expect a nuclear expert to be prime minister or Cabinet minister, so we need top regulatory officials to provide expertise and help us. We didn't have those people."

NISA's top officials, who are not nuclear experts, have

AP

Japan's former Prime Minister Naoto Kan arrives at a parliamentary investigative panel of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant accident after a massive earthquake and tsunami last year in Tokyo Monday, May 28, 2012.

acknowledged the need to improve their resources.

Officials have also said information disclosure was slow and at times wrong, particularly in the immediate aftermath. They also cited poor communication and coordination between nuclear regulators, utility officials and the government.

The crisis, the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986, also revealed problems of the cozy ties between the nuclear industry and sympathetic government regulators—known as "the nuclear village"—that have prompted a culture of complacency. He called that "a root of the illness" of Japan and must be destroyed to create a fully effective regulatory system.

The government led by his successor, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, had planned to revise the regulatory body, but the plan has been delayed as opposition lawmakers demanded more independence from the influence of the promoters.

Noda is desperately trying to restart two reactors in western Japan to curb the summer's power crunch, though the process has been delayed due to opposition from nearby towns, a move seen as backpedaling from Kan's push for a nuclear-free society.

Some 100,000 residents from around the plant have evacuated due to radiation contamination in the area. Japan declared stability at the plant in December, but it runs on makeshift equipment and its earthquake resistance is a concern. Officials say it will take about 40 years to decommission the plant.

A worst-case scenario envisioned by the head of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission two weeks after last year's accident warned that a melting of the fuel rods at the No. 4 reactor would require the evacuation of 30 million people just from the greater Tokyo area.

Nepal fails to adopt blueprint, braces for turmoil

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal sank into political turmoil Monday after lawmakers failed to agree on a new constitution, leaving the country with no legal government. The premier called new elections, but critics said he lacked the power to do so.

Security forces went on high alert and riot police patrolled the streets after several political parties called for rallies to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai and protest his unilateral decision to call elections for November. Only a few peaceful protests were reported.

"The country has plunged into a serious crisis," said Ram Sharan Mahat, a senior leader of the country's second-largest party, the Nepali Congress, who said that six months would not be enough time to prepare for new polling.

"This government has no legitimate grounds to continue," he said.

The squabbling political parties in Nepal's Constituent Assembly had failed to agree on a new blueprint for the Himalayan nation by their own deadline of midnight Sunday, despite repeated extensions of the due date over the past four years.

A key sticking point was whether the country's states should be drawn to give regional power bases to ethnic minorities.

Writing the new constitution was supposed to cap an interim period aimed at solidifying details of Nepal's democracy after the country turned the page on centuries of royal rule and resolved a decade-long Maoist insurgency by bringing the former combatants into the political mainstream.

Bhattarai, from the party of the former Maoists, said the previous constitutional assembly, elected four years ago, had failed and must be dissolved, and that he would head a caretaker government until the Nov. 22 elections.

"We have no other option but to go back to the people and elect a new assembly to write the constitution," Bhattarai said in his announcement.

However, his plan immediately drew criticism from legal experts, who said any plans for new polling should be made in consultation with the country's other political parties.

"It was politically, legally and morally incorrect of the prime minister to announce fresh elections," said constitutional and legal expert Bhimarjun Acharya.

Police spokesman Binod Singh said thousands of police officers had been deployed in the capital, Katmandu, and major cities across the country to stop any violence in the coming days.

At a rally Monday in Katmandu, small groups of college students burnt effigies of Bhattarai and demanded his resignation. Police quickly put out the flames.

Separately, a group supporting the abolished monarchy also demanded the prime minister's resignation, blaming him for the country's political crisis. Police allowed the demonstrators to march through the center of Katmandu.

NKorean farmers cite grave drought; aid unlikely

NAMPHO, North Korea (AP)—North Korea is reporting a serious drought that could worsen already critical food shortages, but help is unlikely to come from the United States and South Korea following Pyongyang's widely criticized rocket launch.

North Korea has had little rain since April 27, with the country's western coastal areas particularly hard hit, according to a government weather agency in Pyongyang. The dry spell threatened to damage crops, officials said, as the country enters a critical planting season and as food supplies from the last harvest dwindle.

In at least one area of South Phyongan Province where journalists from The Associated Press were allowed to visit, the sun-baked fields appeared parched and cracked, and farmers complained of extreme drought conditions. Deeply tanned men, and women in sun bonnets, worked over cabbages and corn seedlings. Farmers cupped individual seedlings as they poured water from blue buckets onto the parched red soil.

"I've been working at the farm for more than 30 years, but I have never experienced this kind of severe drought," An Song Min, a farmer at the Tokhae Cooperative Farm in the Nampho area, told the AP.

It was not clear whether the conditions around Nampho were representative of a wider region. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said it had not yet visited the affected regions to confirm the extent and severity of the reported drought.

North Korea has suffered chronic food shortages for the past two decades because of economic and agricultural mismanagement as well as natural disasters. A famine in the 1990s killed an estimated hundreds of thousands of people.

The country's past appeals for food aid have been met with some skepticism, however, amid concerns that aid would be diverted to the military and Pyongyang elite without reaching the hungry.

The U.S. government suspended food handouts to North Korea in 2009 after Pyongyang expelled foreign food distribution monitors.

In February, the U.S. reversed course and agreed to provide 240,000 metric tons of food aid in exchange for a freeze in nuclear and missile activities. However, the deal collapsed after North Korea launched a long-range rocket last month in what it called a failed attempt to send a satellite into space to study the weather.

The launch was widely criticized by the United States and others as a thinly disguised attempt to test missile technology in violation of both the U.S. food deal and U.N. bans on North Korean ballistic tests. The launch drew U.N. Security Council condemnation.

"The United States would like to get to a place where we could once again contemplate providing nutritional assistance to North Korea," Glyn Davies, the top U.S. envoy for North Korea, said last week. "Sadly, that is not the case right now, in the wake of their decision, in March, to announce" the rocket launch.

South Korea's conservative government has cut off large-scale direct food aid to North Korea since taking office in 2008, saying Pyongyang should first take steps toward nuclear disarmament.

North Korea's dry spell is expected to last until the end of the month, the country's State Hydrometeorological Administration said.

Bureaucrats and workers have been mobilized to irrigate farms, repair wells and keep water-pumping equipment operating, state media reported.

Seedlings are being moved from seed beds to the fields, where they need enough moisture to form strong roots, Percy Misika, the Food and Agriculture Organization's representative for China, North Korea and Mongolia, said Monday from Beijing.

"Any dry spell at this critical time means the seedlings are definitely going to wilt away, and there will be no harvest at the end of the day," he said.

ASIA BRIEFS

Japan questioning 2 US men in Irish woman's death

TOKYO (AP)—Police say two Americans are being questioned about an Irish woman's death in a Tokyo hotel. Police officials said Monday the 21-year-old exchange student had been strangled. Japanese media say the woman, her friend and the Americans met at a Nicki Minaj concert Thursday in Tokyo. Police arrested 23-year-old dancer James Jamari Blackston and a 19-year-old musician on suspicion of sexually molesting the victim's female friend in a taxi to the hotel.

Businessmen to be granted Myanmar visas on arrival

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Businessmen and conference attendees will be granted visas on arrival in Myanmar from Friday. Immigration Department Director-General Maung Maung Than said the visas will cost $50 but not be available for tourists. He said the visas will be available to nationals of 27 countries including the U.K. and the U.S. Myanmar introduced visas-on-arrival in 2010 but suspended the service before that year's general election.

Crash, attack kill 3 NATO troops in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A helicopter crash killed two NATO service members in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, and a third died in an insurgent attack in the south, the U.S.-led coalition said. The deaths raised the number of NATO troops who have been killed in Afghanistan this year to 172. NATO is aiming to withdraw its combat forces by the end of 2014 and turn security responsibility over to the Afghans. Authorities were investigating the cause of the crash, but initial reports indicate there was no enemy activity in the area at the time the helicopter went down, the coalition said. No further details about the crash in the east or the insurgent attack in the south were released.

World

Russia condemns ally Syria over massacre of 108

BEIRUT (AP)—A weekend massacre of more than 100 people emerged as a potential turning point in the Syrian crisis Monday, galvanizing even staunch ally Russia to take an unusually hard line against President Bashar Assad's government.

Analysts said Russia may be warning Assad that he needs to change course or lose Moscow's support, which has been a key layer of protection for the Syrian government during the uprising that began in March 2011.

Russia has grown increasingly critical of Damascus in recent months, but Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's latest comments were unusually strong. Although he said opposition forces have terrorists among them, he put the blame for 15 months of carnage primarily on Assad's government.

"The government bears the main responsibility for what is going on," Lavrov said in Moscow following a meeting with British Foreign Secretary William Hague. "Any government in any country bears responsibility for the security of its citizens."

AP

This frame grab made from an amateur video provided by Syrian activists on Monday, May 28, 2012, purports to show the massacre in Houla on May 25 that killed more than 100 people, many of them children.

Alexei Malashenko, a Middle East expert with the Carnegie Moscow Center, said Lavrov's comments suggest Russia may be backing away from its long-standing support for Damascus.

"Bashar Assad is driving himself and Russia into a corner," Malashenko said. "Bashar has definitely gotten the sense that he may lose Russia's sympathy, and he may step back a bit."

It is not clear whether Assad's forces were exclusively to blame for the slaughter of 108 people Friday in Houla, a collection of poor farming villages in Homs province. The United Nations said 49 children and 34 women were among the dead; some had bullet holes through their heads.

The U.N. Security Council blamed Syrian forces for artillery and tank shelling of residential areas, but it did not clearly state who was responsible for the close-range shooting deaths and "severe physical abuse" of civilians.

Activists from the area said the army pounded the villages with artillery and clashed with local rebels. They said pro-government gunmen later stormed the area, doing the bulk of the killing by gunning down men in the streets and stabbing women and children in their homes.

The Syrian government rejected that account entirely, saying soldiers were attacked in their bases and fought back in self-defense without leaving their bases.

Russia blamed both the government and the rebels for the Houla massacre.

"Both sides have obviously had a hand in the deaths of innocent people, including several dozen women and children," Lavrov said. "This area is controlled by the rebels, but it is also surrounded by the government troops."

He said Russia has no interest in propping up Assad but wants Syria to guide its own transition under a plan brokered by special envoy Kofi Annan.

Qatar says 13 children among dead in mall fire

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Qatar's Interior Ministry said 13 children were among 19 people killed in a fire that broke out in one of the country's fanciest shopping malls late Monday morning, raising questions about building safety in the booming Gulf state.

At least some of the victims died as rescuers struggled to reach a child care center at the Villaggio mall in the capital Doha, according to Qatar's Minister of State for Interior Affairs, Sheik Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani.

"We tried our best, but when we got there, the children were trapped inside. We are very sorry for what happened. We tried as much as we could to save these people," Sheik Abdullah told reporters in Doha.

Four of the children killed were Spanish citizens living in the small Arab emirate, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said. It did not identify the children, citing Spanish privacy regulations.

Also, a 3-year-old French child was among the victims, the deputy minister for overseas French citizens, Yamina Benguigui, said in a statement.

Two-year-old New Zealand triplets, Lillie, Jackson and Willsher Weekes, were among the victims, according to New Zealand media reports.

"Our daughter rang. What can you say? It's absolutely devastating," the children's grandmother, Jo Turner, told Fairfax Media. "They were everything to her. She was a great mum. She was a hands-on mum."

Turner said her daughter, Jane Weekes, had lived in Qatar for about five years, although she had returned to New Zealand to give birth to the triplets. The triplets' father, Martin Weekes, is listed on his LinkedIn networking site as a senior adviser at Qatar Media Services and a former chief executive of Auckland's Eden Park sports stadium.

Four teachers and two civil defense officials were among the dead, the Qatari ministry said on its official Twitter page.

At least three of the nursery teachers were from the Philippines and died of smoke inhalation, Philippine Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said in Manila.

Another 17 people were injured, including four children, according to authorities. Most of those hurt were rescuers responding to the blaze. A brother of one of the dead Filipino teachers was among the injured but had recovered, Hernandez said.

Witnesses earlier reported thick black smoke pouring from the ritzy mall around midday. Amateur photos and videos posted online showed firefighters rescuing victims by climbing on the roof.

The Interior Ministry said the fire was extinguished hours later.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Thick smoke and heat hindered rescue efforts, as did a lack of floor plans and malfunctioning sprinkler systems, the ministry said on Twitter.

Sheik Abdullah said all buildings in the country abide by safety requirements, but a special committee will nonetheless be set up to monitor building safety standards.

Pope's butler vows to help Vatican scandal probe

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The biggest scandal to rock the Vatican in decades widened Monday with the pope's butler, arrested for allegedly having confidential documents in his home, agreeing to cooperate with investigators—raising the specter that higher-ranking ecclesial heads may soon roll.

Few believe butler Paolo Gabriele worked alone to leak dozens of documents shedding light on power struggles, corruption and intrigue inside the highest levels of the Catholic Church. The leaks have tormented the Vatican for months and painted a picture of a church hierarchy in utter disarray.

Gabriele, the pope's personal butler since 2006, was arrested Wednesday evening after Holy See documents were found inside his Vatican City apartment, adding an unfathomable Hollywood twist to the already sordid Vatileaks scandal. He remains in custody in a Vatican detention facility, accused of theft, and has met with his wife and lawyers.

Gabriele's lawyer, Carlo Fusco, said Monday his client was "very serene and calm," despite the whirlwind of speculation surrounding his arrest. He said Gabriele himself had told the Vatican judge investigating the case that he would "respond to all the questions and will collaborate with investigators to ascertain the truth."

Italian media reported Monday that a cardinal is suspected of playing a major role in the scandal. However, the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, denied the reports categorically. He said many Vatican officials were being questioned but insisted "there is no cardinal under suspicion."

But Lombardi acknowledged that the investigation continues.

And on Monday, Italian daily La Repubblica published a rambling interview with what it described as another Vatican "mole," someone who described the various agendas at play behind the leaks.

The unnamed leaker said the aim was to show how weak Pope Benedict XVI is, the fears of his secretary of state, and to make clear that the "fundamental role of the church is to defend the Gospel, not accumulate power and money."

Lombardi dismissed as "pure fantasy" such a rash of unsourced reports about the investigation in the Italian media, which have been on a frenzy ever since reports of Gabriele's detention emerged Friday.

Gabriele, a 46-year-old father of three, was always considered extremely loyal to Benedict and his predecessor, John Paul II, for whom he briefly served. Vatican insiders have said they were baffled by his alleged involvement, and Lombardi said Monday that the entire scandal has caused pain throughout the Vatican.

Benedict, who in March appointed a commission of cardinals to investigate the leaks, was being kept informed of developments and is "aware of the delicate situation that the Roman curia is going through," Lombardi said.

He acknowledged the "negative image" of the Vatican that was emerging from the scandal but said the developments made it ever more important to "reestablish a climate of clarity, truth, transparency and trust as soon as possible."

The Vatileaks scandal broke in January when Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi broadcast letters from the former No. 2 Vatican administrator to the pope in which he begged not to be transferred for having exposed alleged corruption that cost the Holy See millions of euros in higher contract prices. The prelate, Monsignor Carlo Maria Vigano, is now the Vatican's U.S. ambassador.

WORLD BRIEFS

Violence flares after Egypt election results

CAIRO (AP)—A mob set fire late Monday to the campaign headquarters of one of the two Egyptian presidential politicians facing each other in a runoff that will decide a new leader after last year's popular uprising, the first sign of unrest after the voting yielded divisive candidates. The attack on Ahmed Shafiq's office came just hours after the country's election commission announced that he would face the Muslim Brotherhood's candidate, Mohammed Morsi, in a June 16-17 runoff. The second round pitting Shafiq, who was ousted President Hosni Mubarak's last prime minister, against Morsi, backed by the country's most powerful Islamist movement, is a nightmare scenario for the thousands of Egyptians who took to the streets last year to demand regime change, freedom and social equality. Many of the so-called revolutionaries say they want neither a return to the old regime nor religious rule.

Witness in Kenya blast blames bearded man

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—An explosion ripped through a building full of small shops in downtown Nairobi on Monday, injuring at least 33 people, including a woman who blamed the blast on a "bearded man" who left behind a bag shortly before the detonation. Police officials first indicated the explosion could have been caused by some sort of electrical malfunction but the prime minister said it was deliberate. Al-Shabab—an Islamist militant group from Somalia—has threatened to carry out such an attack. "This is a heinous act," Prime Minister Raila Odinga said while visiting the scene of the blast. "They want to scare us. But we will not be scared." The explosion sent dark smoke billowing out of a one-story building on Moi Avenue, named after Kenya's second president. The blast peeled back the front corner of the building's aluminum roof, shattered windows in the building and scattered shoes, clothes and other wares on the ground. A high-rise building with a glass exterior next door was largely untouched.

Focus

Va. girl is youngest ever in National Spelling Bee

By JOSEPH WHITE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Lori Anne Madison, 6, of Lake Ridge, Va., looks at a snail she collected while playing with friends in McLean, Va., on Friday, May 11, 2012. Lori Anne is the youngest contestant in the 2012 National Spelling Bee.

The youngest person ever to qualify for the National Spelling Bee was running around in a stream with a friend, hunting for rocks. Suddenly, she came charging up the bank and headed straight for her mother.

"Hold on to that basalt," Lori Anne Madison said in a bossy 6-year-old's voice, "and do not drop it."

"Go away," her mother said playfully.

Sorina Madison held on the rock nonetheless, and soon was carrying more basalt and a nice hunk of quartz. "I can't carry the entire park," she eventually told her daughter.

Never mind. By then Lori Anne, wearing a green "Little Miss Sunshine" shirt, had joined up with more friends and had taken on a different quest, searching for snails, slugs, tadpoles, water striders, baby snakes and more as they splashed in the waters on a sunny day at the Scotts Run Nature Preserve in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

"Oh my gosh, what is it? A water worm. A water worm! It's alive," said Lori Anne, her shoes soaked from more than an hour of exploring. "I need it in my collection. It's wonderful."

She is blonde and adorable and talks at 100 mph. In the last few weeks, she has won major awards in both swimming and math, but one accomplishment above all has made her an overnight national celebrity: This week, the precocious girl from Lake Ridge, Va., will be onstage with youngsters more than twice her age and twice her size as one of 278 spellers who have qualified for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

"She's like a teenager in a 6-year-old body," Sorina said. "Her brain, she understands things way ahead of her age."

It's hard to argue with that, especially after spending a couple of hours with her. There's been no need for Lori Anne's parents to push her to do anything—because she's already way out in front dragging them along. Some kids are ahead of the curve physically, mentally or socially from a very young age. Lori Anne is the rare exception who defies the norms in every category.

She hit all her milestones early, walking and talking well before others in her playgroup. She was reading before she was 2. She swims four times a week, keeping pace with 10-year-old boys, and wants to be in the Olympics. When her mother tried to enroll her in a private school for the gifted, the headmaster said Lori Anne was just way too smart to accommodate and needed to be home-schooled.

"Once she started reading, that's when people started looking strange at us, in libraries, everywhere, she's actually fluently reading at 2, and at 2 1/2 she was reading chapter books," Sorina said. That meant an unexpected lifestyle change for the mother, a college professor who teaches health-related courses. Lori Anne now studies at home, mastering topics other kids her age won't touch for several years. She wants to be an astrobiologist, a combination of her two favorite subjects, astronomy and biology.

> "Oh my gosh, what is it? A water worm. A water worm! It's alive! I need it in my collection. It's wonderful."

And she talks soooo fast, with well-formed diction and a touch of know-it-all confidence—just like a teenager.

"She out-argues both of us, and my husband is a trial lawyer," Sorina said with a laugh.

Now there's another wrinkle: spelling bee fame. When Lori Anne spelled "vaquero" to win the regional bee in Prince William County in March, she set a new standard for youth in the national bee's 87-year-old history.

"It was shocking," Sorina said. "I didn't expect all the media attention. We're private people. We're regular people. It was intimidating. But I'm happy for her. She loves it and she does it because it's a passion, and we never push her into anything and want her to make her own choices."

Interviews can be boring for a 6-year-old, especially if it's a television setting where she has to sit and sit and sit, so she pulled the plug, telling her mother: "I want to go back to being a kid and playing with my friends."

So a detente was reached. Lori Anne was more than happy to let a reporter and photographer from The Associated Press tag along at a picnic with other gifted home-schooled children, but she craftily steered any questions about spelling back toward the joint pursuit of slimy things in the creek.

On all the attention she's getting: "I sort of didn't like it. I asked for no interviews but the media seems to be disobeying me, and that's why we're looking for snails and water slugs right now."

On why she wants to be an astrobiologist: "I'm going to sort of find life forms. And, plus, alien planets are new. But I need some slugs."

Asked to spell her favorite word, she raced through the letters of "sprachgefuhl" like a blur. Asked to spell it backward, she paused a bit and had to take her time, but she got it right.

"It's even crazier backwards than it is forwards," she said with a giggle, her hand holding a collection jar and her eyes focused on the wet rocks. "Now let's look for some slugs or snails."

By now, the jar contained a diversity of small living things, with the help of Lori Anne's friends. The children in the group are also smart and accomplished—there's a boy who has been studying calculus at age 8—but there's something noteworthy about being in the bee.

"Are you that girl who won the spelling bee?" one boy asked.

"That's me," Lori Anne said.

No one is expecting Lori Anne to win the national bee this year. Just being there is a unique accomplishment, and making it beyond the preliminaries on Tuesday and Wednesday would be another stunning development. The veteran spellers, some as old as 15, have honed sophisticated study methods, spending hours daily over many months in their attempts to master as much of the unabridged dictionary as possible.

Lori Anne? She likes to study while jumping on her trampoline, with her mother calling out words.

"She doesn't sit at a table for hours to study anything. I mean, she's 6," Sorina said with laugh. "She's still a 6-year-old and we want to allow her to be a 6-year-old."

But, at this pace, she'll be a spelling bee force for years to come, one of those youngsters who returns for several years and becomes a familiar face on the ESPN broadcasts.

Asked how she thinks she'll do this year, Lori Anne simply answered "great" and kept on hunting.

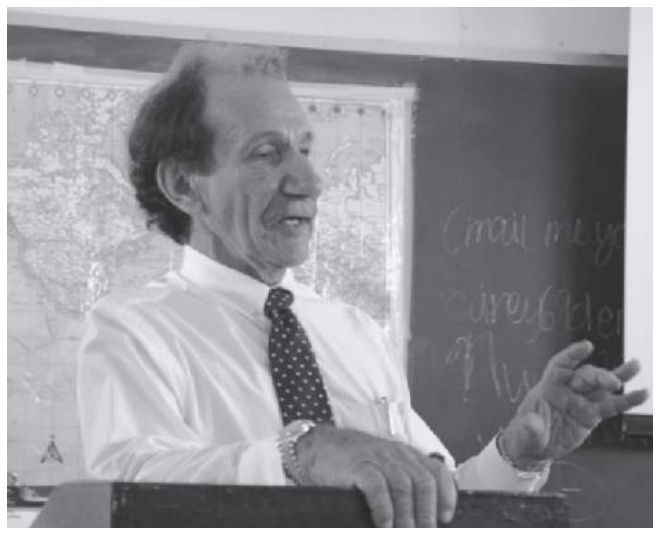
There was one question she was more than happy to answer: How does she win all those arguments with her parents?

"I argue and argue and argue," she said, "until their brain is spinning."

Campus Life

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja and law clerk Sean Smith.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Law clerk Pejman Kharrazian.

Judges and lawyers in the classroom

CNMI students of all grade levels welcomed special visitors into their classrooms during the months of April and May. CNMI Superior Court judges, law clerks, members of the CNMI Bar Association, and staff of the U.S. District Court offered their time and the benefit of their experience to explore with the students the role of the courts in our society and the relationship between courts, justice, and freedom.

The Sinapalo Elementary School and the Rota junior and senior high schools participated on Rota, while elementary and high schools on Tinian enjoyed visits from the Judiciary. In total a thousand students, including those from many of Saipan's elementary schools (Oleai, William S. Reyes, San Antonio, Garapan , Kagman) and students from ChaCha Oceanview Jr. High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Mount Carmel High School were exposed to the Law Week 2012 theme**,** "*No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom.*"

To help explain to the young audiences what happens in a court and who the participants are, a child-friendly PowerPoint program was created through the collaborative efforts of acting chief justice Alexandro Castro, Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, deputy director of courts Sonia Camacho and law clerk Sean Smith.

The judges that participated in the nearly two months' long community outreach program were CNMI Superior Court judges David Wiseman, Joseph Camacho, Kenneth Govendo, Perry Inos, and Presiding Judge Robert Naraja. Law clerks Daniel Bednarski, Pejman Kharrazian and Sean Smith, Clerk of Court Jennifer Dockter, Janet King, CNMI Bar Association president Sean Frink, and U.S. District Court law clerks Richard Miller and QuynhChi Nguyen also made significant contributions to the students' educational experience.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Supreme Court Clerk of Court Jennifer Dockter.

Wiseman, speaking to senior students at Mount Carmel High School, emphasized the importance of the court system when he observed that the life of our community passes before us in the courtroom, and added philosophically, "For each of us, our thoughts control our reality."

The CNMI Judiciary maintains a year-round resolve to broaden the understanding of the judicial process and the rule of law among students of all ages. Speaking engagements and guided tour requests of the Guma Hustisia from teachers and principals of public and private schools are welcome. Arrangements can be made by calling 236-9716. ***(PR)***

Pellegrino speaks to GMS 2012 graduates

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The graduating students of Green Meadow School have their picture taken after the Commencement Exercises at the Pedro A. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on May 19, 2012. Inset shows guest speaker Anthony Pellegrino.

This year's graduating students of Green Meadow School were specially honored with an inspirational talk by businessman Anthony Pellegrino.

An educator himself who spent 12 years of his professional life teaching in the United States and Japan, Pellegrino holds a bachelor's degree in Education from Kutztown State Teacher College in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in Liberal Arts from the Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In his speech, Pellegrino shared with the graduates and with the rest of the audience his thoughts on three subjects, urging the students to always keep them in mind: continuity of life, the reality of change in life, and making decisions as an inevitable part of daily life. In discussing these points, some parents and guests in the audience described Pellegrino's speech as "using simple and direct illustrations made remarkably interesting with powerful and effective delivery."

Pellegrino summarized his remarks with the following statement: "I wish to remind you first, to accept change because it affects all of us greatly. And secondly, make daily decisions carefully and wisely. And third, work hard and don't give up and you will succeed and be a wonderfully happy person."

The graduation ceremonies marking the 9th and 2nd Commencement Exercises for preschool/kindergarten and elementary level respectively were held on May 19, 2012, at the Pedro A. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. A total of 49 students were promoted to the next grade level in this year's graduation ceremonies.

Special recognitions were bestowed on the following top graduates: Elementary: Monica Aira B. Usi, valedictorian; Amelito O. Dalusong Jr., salutatorian. Kindergarten 5, Chalan Kiya Campus: Areeza Gaile Anda, valedictorian; Danielle Nicole Sacramento, salutatorian. Kindergaten 5, Gualo Rai: Andrielle Coloma, valedictorian. ***(PR)***

Life&Style

Lady Gaga sends love to Indonesian fans

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Lady Gaga told fans she was "devastated" at having to cancel her sold-out show in Indonesia following threats by Islamic hard-liners, who called her a "devil worshipper."

Controversy over the concert is a blow to the predominantly Muslim country's reputation as a tolerant, pluralist society that respects freedom of expression.

Some fans accused police—who refused to issue a permit over concerns about security—of buckling to the will of a small group of thugs.

"We had to cancel the concert in Indonesia," the 26-year-old pop diva tweeted to her followers Sunday night after promoters acknowledged concerns about her own safety and that of her "Little Monster" fans if the show went ahead.

"I'm so very sorry to the fans & just as devastated as you if not more," she wrote. "You are everything to me."

Indonesia, a secular nation of 240 million, is often held up by the U.S. and others an example of how democracy and Islam and can coexist. In many ways they are right. Since emerging from dictatorship just over a decade ago, sweeping reforms have resulted in direct elections, while vastly improving human rights and freeing up the media.

But a small extremist fringe has become more vocal—and violent—in recent years, attacking Christians and members of other religious minorities, transvestites, atheists and anyone else deemed immoral.

The most notorious, the Islamic Defenders Front, said Lady Gaga's sexy clothes and provocative dance moves would corrupt the youth. They vowed to turn out at the airport by the thousands if Lady Gaga arrived. Others said they bought tickets so they could wreak havoc from inside the 52,000-seat stadium in the capital, Jakarta.

Police responded by denying the necessary permits. Then, after public outcry, they said they'd reconsider—but only if Lady Gaga agreed to tone down her act.

Instead, she pulled the plug on what was supposed to be the biggest stop on her Asian tour.

Michael Rusli, head of Big Daddy, promised "Little Monster" fans full refunds.

But that provided little consolation to people like 25-year-old Johnny Purba.

"This only shows to the world how weak security forces are in this country, how police are afraid of a bunch of hard-liners," he said.

"Gaga's two-hour show will not hurt Indonesian Muslims. For God's sake, she is not a terrorist!"

Hard-liners, however, were ecstatic.

"This is a victory for Indonesian Muslims," said Salim Alatas, one of the leaders of the Islamic Defenders Front. "Thanks to God for protecting us from a kind of devil."

'Fifty Shades' books now have own fan fiction

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Not all that long ago, E L James was Snowqueens Icedragon, cranking out her sexed-up "Twilight" fan fiction online.

Well, faster than you can shriek your safe word, her kinky "Fifty Shades of Grey" bondage erotica trilogy has fan fiction of its own, in the same place where she first serialized her story under a different title.

"I'm immensely flattered, and it's humbling to know my work is inspiring others to write," the London mother and TV producer said in a statement less than three months after "Fifty Shades" was published by Vintage Books and climbed to the top of best-seller lists.

James

The writings range from parody to otherworldy to crossovers into other book worlds like "Harry Potter."

Fan fiction for "Twilight" remains among the most popular at FanFiction.net, James's former home, with nearly 200,000 contributions there, behind only Potter for books. The number for James's books is growing but still well under 50.

The irony hasn't been lost on some writers and reviewers on FanFiction.net, the largest gathering place for largely anonymous fan fiction writers. Asked one on the site: "How absurd is it to write fanfics OF fanfics?"

No more or less absurd than fan fiction, which stretches back at least to the early 1900s and the stories of Sherlock Holmes, said Anne Jamison, an English professor at the University of Utah who taught a unit on the "Twilight" fandom.

"There was fan fiction before you called it fan fiction," she said, "and before there was copyright, it was called writing."

In more recent years but before the rise of the Internet, the early "Star Trek" series helped boost the popularity of fan fiction. It exists today online for numerous TV shows, movies, comic books, plays and games, done in many genres and much of it with big disclaimers declaring it's all just for fun.

When James was still back in "Twilight" fandom toiling on her "Master of the Universe," beginning in mid-2009, she received up to nearly 60,000 comments on FanFiction.net. That's an immense number then and now, propelling her stardom.

James eventually moved the story to its own website, reworked it with non-"Twilight" names and signed on with a small Australian company known for plucking and publishing fan fiction for e-book and print-on-demand hard copy.

Vintage, a literary imprint of Random House, snatched up the rights after the buzz began building, paying seven figures and leading James to a movie deal with Universal Pictures and Focus Features.

Sales for the trilogy are at 10 million and counting across formats, Vintage said Tuesday.

The "Fifty Shades" books chronicle the hyperactive sex life and love story of the damaged Grey and the innocent Steele from her perspective, soon after they meet when she interviews him for her college newspaper.

"I'm learning how to write naughty. It's not so easy. You have to break down your own shield. You have to open yourself up to write naughty," said 60-something aspiring fiction writer Nancy Hartmann, whose "50 plus 15" story has Grey seducing one of his teen daughter's teachers.

The rapid publication of all three "Fifty Shades" books has other fans in withdrawal and seeking more—even if it's not the real deal.

Sara Eberhart, a 22-year-old college student, considers herself a "Fifty Shades" fan and is following a few of the stories on FanFiction.net.

"James's writing style is weak and pedestrian and there can be much improvement, and I think that's what all of the fanfic writers are sensing and consequently writing their own version of," said Eberhart, who hopes to be a published author someday.

LMFAO duo are serious about being funny

By JON BREAM
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS—LMFAO are silly, and they know it. They're also smart and resourceful. In the past year, the Los Angeles electro-pop duo has catapulted from dance-club up-and-comers to colorful stars who boast two No. 1 smashes, a Super Bowl halftime performance with Madonna and an arena headline tour.

Not bad for a pair of slackers. While their global smashes "Sexy and I Know It" and "Party Rock Anthem" sound flagrantly stupid, their success isn't dumb luck. That became clear during 40 minutes on the phone with Redfoo and SkyBlu—America's biggest party-animal duo since "Wayne's World."

Let's start with their pedigree: Redfoo, born Stefan Gordy 36 years ago, is the son of Motown founder Berry Gordy, one of the most successful executives in the history of the recording industry. SkyBlu, born Skyler Gordy 26 years ago, is Gordy's grandson and Redfoo's nephew.

Growing up, they got music-biz lessons directly from the man they call "Papa Berry" and from his autobiography, "To Be Loved: The Music, the Magic, the Memories of Motown." The now-successful scions explained a few crucial pointers in language as simple and direct as their lyrics.

"Direction is more important than speed," Redfoo said in a recent teleconference with several journalists. "You can go fast in the wrong direction."

"Two plus two is four," SkyBlu picked up. "Logic is boss. If something don't make sense, no matter who's throwing down the orders, you know you shouldn't do it."

Redfoo recited Gordy's basic three-step philosophy: "Create, make and sell. And it's really important to know which phase that you're in. You're in creation; you're writing the songs. Once you get all the songs, then you make (record) them. Then you manufacture them. You have to get the CDs pressed up or you have to get it into iTunes or whatever your distribution channels are. And then you sell them.

"Another thing is: Organize before you advertise. Understand what you're promoting."

Inspiration can come from anywhere, Redfoo said.

Redfoo and SkyBlu—or more popularly known as the duo LMFAO—is America's biggest party-animal duo since "Wayne's World."

Sounds elementary, doesn't it? Redfoo and SkyBlu are masters of the lowest common denominator. Like Black Eyed Peas, LMFAO takes simple, chant-like phrases that resonate around the world ("everybody have a good time" is the slogan in "Party Rock Anthem") and wed them to minimal but irresistible dance beats.

The music is influenced heavily by Chicago house and Detroit electro, proven dance-club styles. There are also elements of Miami bass, Atlanta crunk and New Orleans bounce.

True students of the game, Redfoo and SkyBlu scrutinize the work of other hitmakers and often pick their brains.

"In the beginning, me and Foo were just listening to music and figuring things out," SkyBlu said. "Now we know (producers) David Guetta and Afrojack, so through conversation and all that, it stimulates maybe a new sound or a new concept of 'this is how they do that.' Then we take it and do it in our own way."

"The shuffle (an LMFAO dance move) kinda originates from the Charleston (dance) and the big-band jazz and swing jazz. That hadn't been used in popular music for a while. The you-point-your-finger-in-the-air type thing, that was in the Roaring '20s. We like it. So we put that in our music."

Cartoonish but contagious, their lyrics read like Patrón-fueled pickup lines:

"I got a passion in my pants/ And I ain't afraid to show it, show it, show it, show it."

Or: "I've got a plan, what's your cell?/ We playing naked Twister back in my hotel."

If you think LMFAO walks the fine line between stupid and clever, remember it's all in the name of fun.

"I used to do stand-up comedy," said Redfoo, who, like SkyBlu, was a class clown growing up. "The thing we did with LMFAO, we wanted to be ourselves or exaggerations of ourselves. We're funny people. We might satire here or there, a couple of lines, but it's not like a joke band. Not like Spinal Tap.

"It got mixed up in the beginning 'cause people thought that we were making fun of maybe hip-hop or electro. No. This is what we do. We don't follow a model like traditional songwriting. Some people say: 'So when are you gonna start making some serious music?' We say: 'I'm dead serious. This is how we communicate—with a little bit of funny.'"

That should be clear enough from Redfoo's voluminous Afro and oversized lens-free glasses. There's a story behind those thrift-shop frames:

Foo was wearing glasses in a Miami club, getting his groove on, when SkyBlu came up to him on the dance floor and told him: "Man, you freakin' two fat bleepies and one of them looks like a dude."

The prescription glasses made everything look fuzzy, "so I popped out my lenses," Redfoo said. "Then I could see everything in the club but still had my cool accessory on my face. A girl came up to me and said, 'I like your glasses.' And she was hot. And I said, 'I ain't never taking these off.'"

The humor even extends to the duo's moniker. Any texter worth her smartphone knows that LMFAO stands for "laugh my bleeping bleep off." But Redfoo and SkyBlu say it's short for "loving my friends and others."

Yeah, fans laugh their butts off when they hear that one.

‘MiB’ co-star Brolin rejuvenates Jones’ Agent K

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Josh Brolin thought he was just being goofy when he launched into a Tommy Lee Jones impersonation on a night out with the Coen brothers and their friend Barry Sonnenfeld. Turns out, Brolin was on an audition of sorts.

Four years later, Brolin shows his Jones act to the world in Sonnenfeld’s “Men in Black 3,” playing a young version of Jones’ Agent K opposite Will Smith’s Agent J as the sci-fi comedy franchise returns after a 10-year break.

After the Directors Guild Awards in 2008, Brolin went out on the town with Joel and Ethan Coen, who had just won the top honor for “No Country for Old Men,” their crime thriller that co-starred Jones and Brolin. Sonnenfeld, the cinematographer on the Coens’ first three films, joined them afterward, meeting Brolin for the first time.

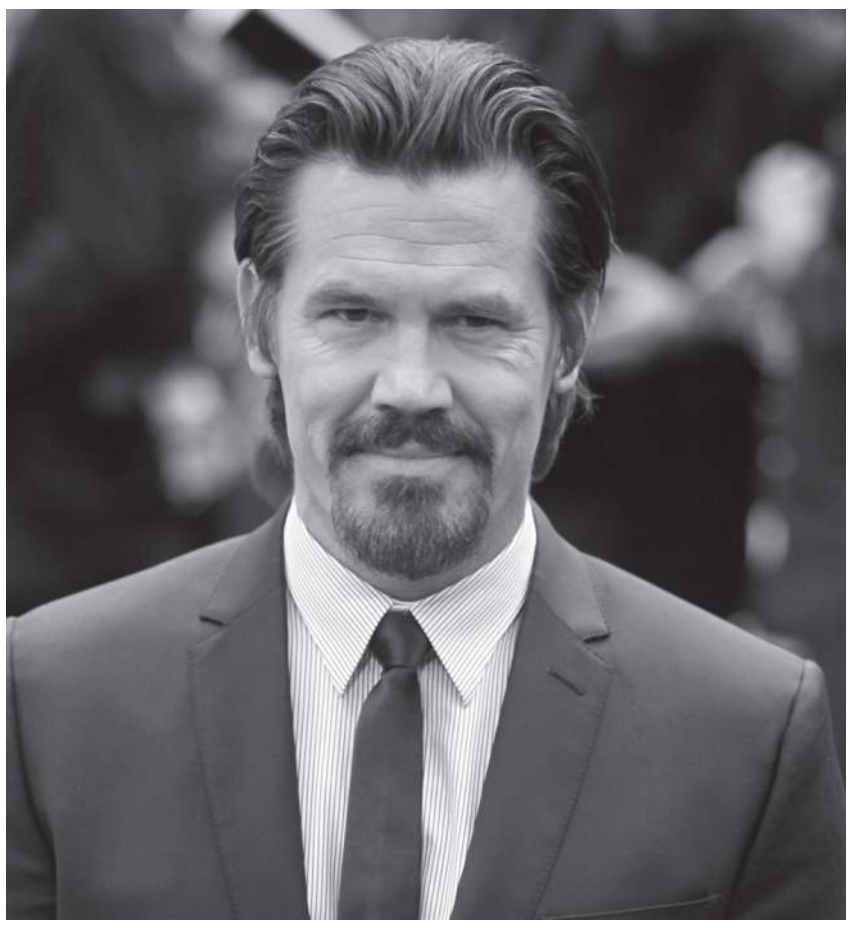
Brolin had everyone laughing with his imitation of Jones’ melodic drawl.

He had no idea that years earlier, Smith had suggested a sequel idea in which Agent J travels back in time and encounters the younger incarnation of Jones’ stone-faced Agent K.

When it came time to shoot “Men in Black 3,” that was the story line, and Sonnenfeld knew just the right guy to call.

“Barry was like, ‘Hey, Brolin! You want to be in “Men in Black”? It’s fun!’ And I was like, ‘Yeah, I love “Men in Black.” But as what? Like, Agent Q or Agent Whatever?’” Brolin said. “And Barry said, ‘No, to play young Tommy! Remember, you did that impression for me?’

“There’s one thing about being out at a bar with Barry and doing stupid impressions of Tommy Lee Jones with the Coens, and then there’s another thing where somebody’s telling you to do a movie that’s going to be screening all over the planet.”



AP
In this May 16, 2012 file photo, actor Josh Brolin arrives at the premiere of his film, “Men In Black 3” in London.

Brolin, 44, has taken on tough interpretations before, earning acclaim as President George W. Bush in “W.” and receiving an Academy Award nomination for “Milk” as San Francisco city supervisor Dan White, the man who killed fellow supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone.

But Brolin said doing a credible take on Jones’ Agent K may have been the most challenging acting job he’s had, requiring subtle humor as straight man to Smith while making the younger K his own man and not just a caricature.

Brolin holed up at a Mexican hotel practicing his Agent K routine syllable by syllable, eventually going out to restaurants there and speaking like a young Jones.

“Then, once I felt like I had conquered Mexico, I could come back to California and try it on a few people here, see if that worked, then try it on my friends,” Brolin recalled. “Then I’d go through half days of doing nothing but Tommy.”

“Men in Black 3” is the third movie featuring Jones and Brolin, after “No Country” and “In the Valley of Elah.” The movie begins and ends in the present, with Smith’s J, as always, trying to draw out Jones’ taciturn K. The mid-section sends J back to 1969, where a nasty alien plots to kill Brolin’s young K so he can carry out an invasion of Earth.

Sonnenfeld has vivid memories of that night with the Coens, when he first met Brolin. What struck Sonnenfeld more than Brolin’s Jones impersonation was a physical feature the two actors share.

“What I remember,” said the director, “is, oh my God, this man is the only person on the planet that has a head as physically as huge as Tommy Lee Jones.”

Michelle Obama, daughters attend Beyonce concert

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP)—Michelle Obama was with the single ladies this weekend, joining 5,500 fans at a Beyonce concert in Atlantic City.

The first lady was with daughters Sasha and Malia at Revel Resorts, where Beyonce performed two dozen songs Saturday night. Obama’s husband, President Barack Obama, did not attend.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was among the sell-out crowd packed into Revel’s Ovation Hall.

Michelle Obama and the girls appeared excited throughout the concert, cheering Beyonce on. The daughters even sang along to the old school-sounding jam “Love on Top.”

Obama recently told People magazine that if she could be anyone else, it would be Beyonce. And she came close, at least in how she was received by the audience: The first lady got a roaring cheer that matched Beyonce’s as she made her way to her seat in a shiny green dress. Some fans took photos while others screamed her name. One yelled, “This is history!

Beyonce opened the night with the upbeat “End of Time,” wearing a glimmering silver outfit and hot pink shoes that matched her nails. She followed that with more up-tempo hits like “Crazy In Love,” ‘’Get Me Bodied” and “Party.”

During the slower grooves, Beyonce brought on the emotion. She held back tears during a rousing rendition of “Resentment” and sat on top of a piano when belting the love song “1+1.”

The multiplatinum singer’s Atlantic City concerts are her first since giving birth in January to daughter Blue Ivy.

AP
In this Friday May 25, 2012 photo provided by Parkwood Entertainment, Beyonce performs at Revel in Atlantic City, N.J., for the resort’s premiere.

“Y’all don’t know how hard I had to work,” Beyonce told the crowd. “I had to lose 60 pounds (27 kilograms). They had me on the treadmill, eating lettuce.”

Beyonce paid tributes to late singers throughout the night, singing a verse of Whitney Houston’s “I Will Always Love You” and giving Donna Summer a shout-out when performing “Naughty Girl,” which samples Summer’s hit “Love to Love You Baby.” She also performed a cover of Lauryn Hill’s “Ex-Factor” and infused the Goo Goo Dolls’ “Iris” when she sang “If I Were a Boy.”

Beyonce was backed by her all-female band and numerous dancers—including some men. She also performed Friday and has shows on Sunday and Monday at Revels, which also has a casino.

“I hope y’all win a lot of money tonight,” Beyonce said at the end of her show.

Smith, Jones’ ‘MiB3’ zaps ‘Avengers’ out of No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The comic action heroes of “Men in Black 3” have taken over the weekend box office from the comic-book superheroes of “The Avengers.”

According to studio estimates Monday, Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones’ latest “Men in Black” installment debuted with $70 million domestically over the four-day Memorial Day weekend, which proved unusually quiet at theaters for Hollywood overall.

Sony’s “Men in Black 3” took over the No. 1 spot from Disney’s “The Avengers,” which had been the top flick for three straight weekends but slipped to second place with $46.9 million domestically.

“Men in Black 3” added $133.2 million overseas for a worldwide total of $203.2 million.

“We took over the world this weekend,” said Rory Bruer, Sony’s head of distribution. “It’s so exciting to see Will and company back in this franchise. I certainly think that most people who’ve seen the film think it’s the best of the franchise.”

“The Avengers” raised its domestic total to $523.6 million, making it the No. 4 movie on the all-time domestic revenue chart and only the fourth film to top half a billion dollars. “The Avengers” will quickly pass the No. 3 film, “The Dark Knight” at $533.3 million, leaving only “Avatar” at $760.5 million and “Titanic” at $658.5 million ahead of it.

While it was a good start for “Men in Black 3” and another strong hold for “The Avengers,” Memorial Day weekend was the slowest at theaters in more than a decade. Box-office tracker Hollywood.com estimates that overall domestic receipts for the four days will finish at $190 million, the lowest since Memorial Day weekend in 2001, when revenues totaled $185.3 million.

A year ago, Hollywood pulled in a record $276.3 million over Memorial Day weekend, when “The Hangover Part II” debuted with $103.4 million.

So far, Hollywood’s summer season has been a one- or two-hit wonder, with only “The Avengers” doing blockbuster business and now “Men in Black 3” joining it with a solid opening.

Other May releases fell far short of expectations, with Johnny Depp and Tim Burton’s “Dark Shadows” and the game adaptation “Battleship” swamped in the wake of “The Avengers.” “Battleship” launched in April overseas, though, where its $232 million haul helped make up for its meager $47.1 million total after two weekends domestically.

With domestic revenue at $4.3 billion so far this year, Hollywood remains on a record pace, receipts running 11.3 percent ahead of last year’s, according to Hollywood.com. But revenue had been running 20 percent ahead of 2011’s earlier this year.

Analysts have said this season could sweep past last year’s summer revenue record of $4.4 billion on the strength of such releases as “The Avengers” and its superhero cousins “The Dark Knight Rises” and “The Amazing Spider-Man.”

Other than “The Avengers” and “Men in Black 3,” summer is off to a slow start.

“After five weeks of summer, to only have two hits, that’s tough,” said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. “We definitely need to slingshot back. I was on record predicting record revenue for this summer, and now I’m getting worried. Summer is only 18 weeks, so we don’t have a lot of time, but we do have a lot of big movies coming.”

“Men in Black 3” reunites Smith’s Agent J and Jones’ K for their first big-screen adventure since 2002. The movie co-stars Josh Brolin as the younger Agent K, who is targeted for death by a time-traveling alien that Agent J chases back to the late 1960s.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

1. **“Men in Black 3,”** $70 million ($133.2 million international).
2. **“The Avengers,”** $46.9 million ($26.3 million international).
3. **“Battleship,”** $13.8 million ($2.9 million international).
4. **“The Dictator,”** $11.8 million ($11.8 million international).
5. **“Dark Shadows,”** $9.4 million ($13.1 million international).
6. **“Chernobyl Diaries,”** $9.3 million.
7. **“What to Expect When You’re Expecting,”** $8.9 million ($1.5 million international).
8. **“The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,”** $8.2 million ($853,000 international).
9. **“The Hunger Games,”** $2.9 million ($800,000 international).
10. **“Think Like a Man,”** $1.8 million.

Britney Spears debuts on 'X Factor' show

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Britney Spears has been on the job just two days and she's already proving to be a popular judge on "The X Factor."

The pop queen is also growing into her role as critic on the Fox singing contest show.

"The X Factor" staged its first auditions for the upcoming season Thursday and Friday in Austin, Texas, and judging by the boisterous cheers and the "I love you Britney!" calls from the crowd, the Grammy-winning singer is already a hit in her new role.

She's also showing she's not afraid to vote against contestants or disagree occasionally with show creator Simon Cowell and fellow judges Demi Lovato and L.A. Reid.

"I feel like your song was just in the wrong key," Spears told a contestant Friday, adding that choosing a different song would have been "more interesting."

In this Thursday, May 24, 2012 photo released by Fox, singer Britney Spears arrives at the taping of "The X-Factor," in Austin, Texas.
AP

She told another contestant, "Your voice is really sweet, but I feel like you need a little more training."

Spears has yet to develop the chattiness that Lovato, also a new judge, had with the often nervous contestants. While Spears was direct but brief with her opinions, Lovato demonstrated a more casual rapport with the singers, even when it was clear they weren't going to be cut.

Spears, 30, was brought in to help boost ratings for "The X Factor" after its debut season fell short of Cowell's predictions. The former child performer became an international star with her 1999 debut album, "... Baby One More Time." Other hits have come ("Oops!... I Did It Again," ''Toxic") but her personal life has been difficult, with rehab spells and time in a psychiatric ward.

For her judging debut, Spears wore a bright neon pink dress and she sat next to Cowell during Friday's auditions. The two routinely chatted during the breaks between singers.

Gregg Allman ready to marry for 7th time

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Gregg Allman is getting married for the seventh time.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member has told several interviewers this week that he's engaged to his 24-year-old girlfriend, Shannon Williams, and Allman's publicist and manager confirmed the news Friday morning.

Allman talked about the unexpected love he felt for Williams in an interview with The Associated Press earlier this year for a story about his memoir, "My Cross to Bear," but admitted he was wary about taking the relationship further because of his past difficulties in his love life. But Allman told Howard Stern, Piers Morgan and a SiriusXM town hall audience this week that he's taken the relationship to the next stage.

Little is known about Williams, who entered the 64-year-old rock pioneer's life after a liver transplant and a run of health difficulties.

Elvis Presley crypt up for auction next month

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For the right price, you or a loved one can rest in peace in the tomb of The King. Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien is selling Elvis Presley's original crypt to the highest bidder as part of his "Music Icons" auction next month.

The tomb is located inside the granite and marble mausoleum at the Forest Hill Cemetery in Memphis, Tenn. Presley was interred there alongside his mother, Gladys, after he died Aug. 16, 1977. Two months later, they were reburied at his Graceland home. The original crypt has remained empty ever since.

Julien says the winning bid from the auction beginning June 23 will receive the crypt, opening and closing of the vault for burial, a memorialization inscription and use of a chapel for a committal service. Transportation and funeral home charges are not included.

Kylie's golden moment in Cannes

Cannes, France (AP)—Kylie Minogue dazzled in Dolce & Gabbana gold on the Cannes red carpet.

There was one problem—she didn't have any pockets.

The Australian singer attended the world premiere of "Holy Motors" Wednesday—a surreal movie that sees her return to acting.

Minogue walked up the famous Palais steps in a glittering floor length metallic gown. The former soap star loved the experience, but missed being able to contact her friends and family.

Minogue says: "I would have liked to have had my phone last night, straight afterwards, so I could call home, call my boyfriend and say, 'oh my God, that was amazing'—but no, I didn't have my phone."

AP
Actress Kylie Minogue, left, and actor Denis Lavant wave as they arrive for the screening of Holy Motors at the 65th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, May 23, 2012.

In "Holy Motors," which is directed by Leos Carax, Minogue plays an old flame of the central character.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

May-Treanor campaigns to return to 'Dancing' show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two-time Olympic beach volleyball gold medalist Misty May-Treanor has already secured a spot in the London Games. Now she hopes to take care of some unfinished business. May-Treanor wants a spot on "Dancing with the Stars," the TV show she left in 2008 after tearing her Achilles tendon in rehearsals. Since then, she has been trying to get another chance. The show says its next season will include all-stars from previous editions. May-Treanor asked fans on her Facebook page to vote for her to return. She notes that she was never voted off and says, "I would love to finish what I wasn't able to when I was on the show the last time." May-Treanor will compete in London with Kerri Walsh, her partner from the Athens and Beijing Games.

Anne Hathaway's ex-boyfriend freed from US prison

LORETTO, Pennsylvania (AP)—An Italian ex-boyfriend of actress Anne Hathaway has been released from a federal prison following a real-estate scam. Federal Bureau of Prisons spokesman Chris Burke says Raffaello Follieri was released Friday morning from a prison in Loretto, 80 miles (129 kilometers) east of Pittsburgh. He says non-U.S. residents are usually transferred to immigration authorities. Follieri pleaded guilty to cheating investors by falsely claiming he had Vatican connections that enabled him to buy church property at a discount. He was sentenced in 2008 to 4 1/2 years in prison. Follieri agrees he owes more than $3.6 million to those he ripped off. The proceeds supported a playboy lifestyle that included a $37,000-a-month New York City apartment and lavish vacations with the star of "The Princess Diaries." They dated for four years.

Zimbabwe arrests British music presenter

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Organizers of a classical music festival in Zimbabwe say authorities arrested a prominent British music personality at a concert in the second city of Bulawayo. The city's Academy of Music said Saturday that Petroc Trelawny, the presenter of top classical music programs for the British Broadcasting Corp., remained in police cells after being arrested at Bulawayo's City Hall late Thursday. It said Trelawny, aged in his 40s and a long time supporter of the academy who had made previous visits, volunteered to introduce and be the compere at the concert for no fee. Police and immigration authorities alleged he was working in Zimbabwe without an employment permit. Conditions in filthy police cells in Zimbabwe are notoriously harsh, worsened by near freezing night temperatures in May.

Woman wants to come clean about online dating subterfuge

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I do online dating. For safety, I use an alias. I look much younger than my 43 years, so I went out with a 29-year-old who thinks I'm 33. I have horrible luck with relationships and didn't think this one would be any different. Boy, was I wrong! We have been dating three weeks now.

How do I tell him I'm 43, have two kids he doesn't know about and a different name? Or should I just break it off now?

INCOGNITO IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR INCOGNITO: Do not "just break it off" with no explanation. Tell the man what you told me—that you have had such poor experiences with online dating that you used an alias, that you "fudged" about your age and that you have children. If it's a turn-off for him, you need to know it before you become more emotionally involved.

P.S. Because many people on dating sites don't tell the whole truth, it's possible he not only won't be shocked but will have a few things to fess up about, too.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 37-year-old son, "Dave," has two children, a daughter who is 18 and a son who is 10. He's a single parent.

Until she was 15, my granddaughter, "Nicole," was the perfect child. Then she started getting into trouble, stopped going to school, ran away repeatedly and caused our entire family a great deal of stress. She was arrested at 17 for credit card fraud and was caught soliciting.

Dave has decided he never wants to see Nicole again because of her actions. He has given me an ultimatum. Either I have him in my life or I have her, but not both. He doesn't even want me to talk to her on the phone. He says that Nicole "killed a part of him" by doing everything she did, and me talking to her would be like talking to my son's murderer.

Please tell me what you think. I understand how hurt my son is and don't want to hurt him further, but I don't think he should tell me what I can do.

FLORIDA GRANDMA

DEAR GRANDMA: I agree with you. Your son may have written Nicole off, but he does not have the right to dictate that you must do the same. You may see and speak to whomever you wish, and that includes the granddaughter you obviously love. However, by maintaining contact with her, there may be a steep price to pay, not only because it may estrange you from your son, but also because your granddaughter is a deeply troubled girl.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: If you're walking down a hallway with a full plate of hot food and someone who is texting comes around the corner and bumps into you, sending your food to the floor, who should clean up the mess? And should the texter be obliged to reimburse the victim whose lunch was lost?

SPILL SURVIVOR IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR SPILL SURVIVOR: Since you are asking me, I suspect that the person who bumped into you took no responsibility for what happened.

People who perambulate are supposed to watch where they are going. That the texter didn't offer to reimburse you for the meal or at least help clean up the mess shows a distinct lack of class. While the texter should have felt obligated to help, there is no way to "compel" someone to do the right thing.

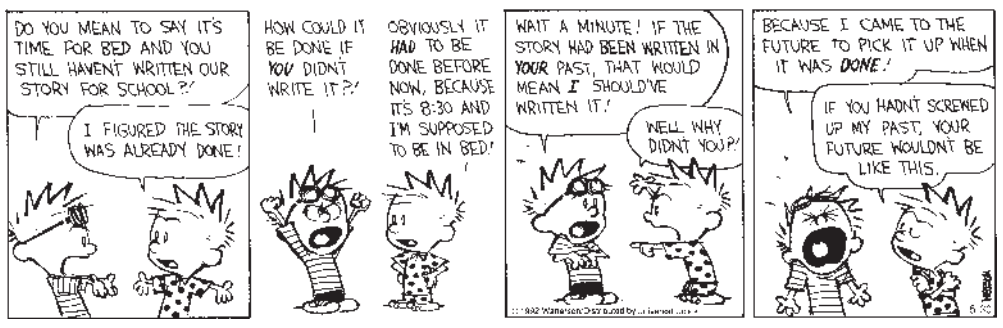
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

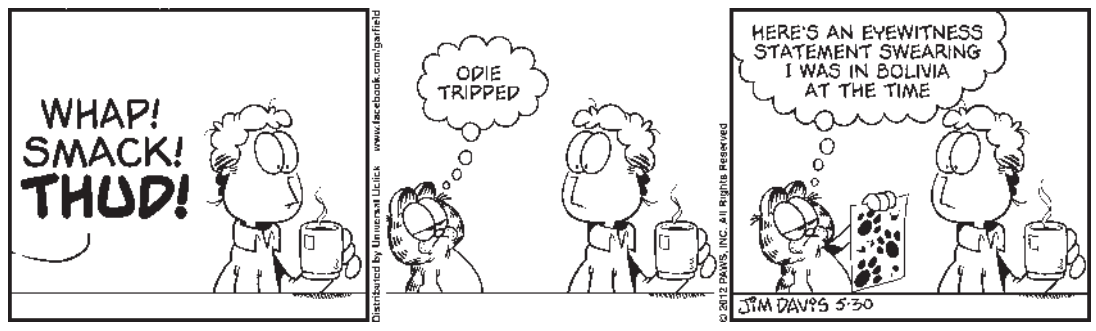
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DO YOU MEAN TO SAY IT'S TIME FOR BED AND YOU STILL HAVENT WRITTEN OUR STORY FOR SCHOOL?!
I FIGURED THE STORY WAS ALREADY DONE!
HOW COULD IT BE DONE IF YOU DIDNT WRITE IT?!
OBVIOUSLY IT HAD TO BE DONE BEFORE NOW, BECAUSE IT'S 8:30 AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN BED!
WAIT A MINUTE! IF THE STORY HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN YOUR PAST, THAT WOULD MEAN I SHOULD'VE WRITTEN IT!
WELL WHY DIDNT YOU?!
BECAUSE I CAME TO THE FUTURE TO PICK IT UP WHEN IT WAS DONE!
IF YOU HADNT SCREWED UP MY PAST, YOUR FUTURE WOULDNT BE LIKE THIS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



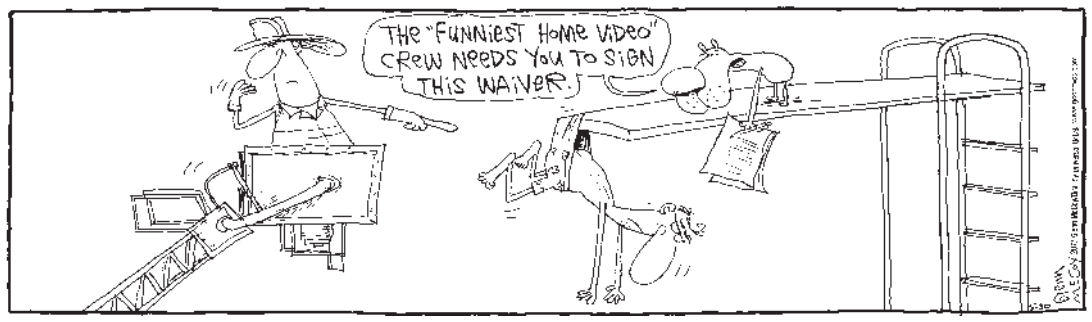
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR SETTING THE CLOCK AHEAD.
LAURA. IT'S SIMPLE. THE BODY HATES TO WAKE UP.
BUT YOU KNOW IT'S SET AHEAD.
IT GIVES ME A QUICK JOLT AND THEN I RELAX.
BUT YOU KNOW IT'S SET AHEAD. THE ILLUSION ISN'T REAL.
BUT IT FEELS REAL.
WHAT BENEFIT IS THERE TO CREATING A REALITY THAT ISN'T TRUE?
THERE'S A KARDASHIAN JOKE IN THERE SOMEWHERE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pal of Snow White
4 Upper limit
7 Lass
8 West Coast st.
10 Stands
11 Vinegary
13 Subjective rulings
16 Agent
17 Foundation
18 Once around the track
19 Tops
20 Bart's sister
21 Wear
23 Principal pipes
25 Reverberate
26 "My bad"
27 Attempt
28 Surpass
30 Old French coin
33 Is in control
36 Nebraska river
37 Leg bone
38 Wickerwork willow
39 Caustic solutions
40 Pitch
41 Corn spike

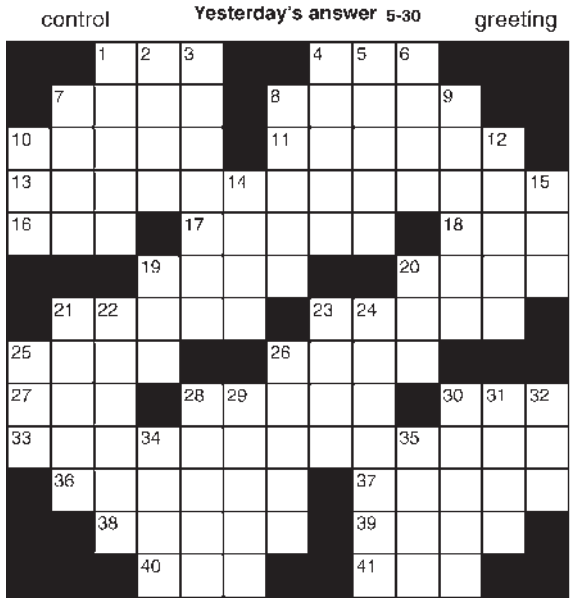
DOWN

1 Sean Combs, to some
2 First (Abbr.)
3 Scale awkwardly
4 Woes for Wile E. Coyote
5 Baldwin and Guinness
6 Pocket bread
7 Rise
8 "Art able to," in days of yore
9 Temp
10 Sleepwear, briefly
12 Curriculum component
14 Right on the map?
15 Masseur's workplace
19 Greet the villain
20 Fleur-de- —
21 Throw away
22 Flaky pastry dough
23 Fashion
24 Last Supper figure
25 Listending abbr.
26 Different
28 Town at the mouth of the Tiber
29 Say
30 Not intoxicated
31 Elevator man
32 Location of Anytown?
34 Final
35 Informal greeting

Solution time: 21 mins.

K	E	L	P	■	M	A	S	■	A	N	T	I
O	V	E	R	■	E	L	I	■	P	E	A	L
N	E	V	E	■	C	A	R	A	P	A	C	E
G	R	I	M	A	C	E	■	X	E	R	O	X
■	■	■	E	T	A	■	L	E	A	■	■	■
S	U	E	D	E	■	W	A	L	L	A	C	E
U	S	A	■	■	F	O	X	■	■	D	U	C
V	E	R	S	A	C	E	■	H	A	Z	E	L
■	■	■	P	V	C	■	G	F	I	■	■	■
E	E	R	I	E	■	S	U	R	F	A	C	E
D	R	A	G	R	A	C	E	■	R	E	A	R
I	N	T	O	■	P	A	S	■	E	R	G	O
T	E	S	T	■	T	N	T	■	D	O	E	S

Yesterday's answer 5-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Clint Bowyer, 33; Cee-Lo Green, 38; Idina Menzel, 41; Wynonna Judd, 48.

Happy Birthday: Focus on what's doable and you will be pleased with your accomplishments this year. Expect to face opposition and controversy. Stay centered and calm, even if everything around you appears unpredictable and unsafe. Rely on common sense and good judgment to get you through each situation you face, and you will acquire satisfaction. Your numbers are 4, 7, 13, 27, 33, 36, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get your plans underway, even if you face some minor setbacks. You will learn a lot from what you experience along the way. Talking with experts will lead to greater opportunity to use your own skills. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't live in the past, especially when it comes to jobs, investments or missed opportunities. Forward thinking will get you ahead in the end. A bragger will renege on a promise, so be prepared to take over. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't lose sight of a good deal, investment or offer that has the potential to change your life. A lover, friend or youngster in your life may not like the choice you make, but you have to do what's best for you long-term. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep your secrets to yourself. Sharing too much information will give someone the upper hand. Accept the inevitable and you will find a way to maneuver through whatever you face. A partnership will play an important role in your life. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Talk to anyone in charge of an organization that interests you. Being a part of something you believe in will enhance your life mentally, emotionally and financially. Romance is in the stars and will enhance your personal life immensely. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will have to be smart to overcome the tactics people use to get something from you. Listen to what's being offered and find a way to come up with a better plan that you yourself can offer. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let someone who is negative rain on your parade. Follow through with your plans and get involved in whatever you feel is in your best interest. Traveling or planning playful activities will enhance your love life. 3 stars

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make sure your plans are realistic before you get started. A home improvement project will make your life more comfortable, but overspending will cause unwanted stress. Offer a skill or service for extra cash. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Touch base with old colleagues, peers or partners, and you will get a lead on a potential position, investment or challenge that interests you. There is money to be made if you start a home-based business. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't give in. Letting someone put pressure on you or giving ultimatums to someone will end in a no-win situation with little wiggle room to move forward. Question motives and decide if perhaps you should move forward on your own. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Check your options. Stick close to home and hone one of your skills that has potential to raise your income. There is money to be made, but you are likely to overspend as well. Set up a budget and stick to it. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't make promises you can't keep or take the word of someone offering the impossible. Be realistic about your friendships, travel, money and lifestyle. Set conservative goals that will lead to greater stability. Don't let emotional matters cost you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fun-loving, inquisitive and creative. You set your own standard.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	2	9	1	5		
	3						8	
2								4
6		1	8		7	3		5
5								7
4		2				8		6
9			7	8	6			1
	6						5	
		4	9	2	5	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	8	7	3	1	2	6	5
5	6	1	4	2	8	7	9	3
3	2	7	9	5	6	4	8	1
7	5	4	1	8	9	3	2	6
6	8	2	3	7	5	9	1	4
9	1	3	6	4	2	5	7	8
2	4	5	8	1	7	6	3	9
8	7	6	5	9	3	1	4	2
1	3	9	2	6	4	8	5	7

Difficulty level ★★ 5/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MIKE WALLACE (1918-2012) **Solution: 9 letters**

N	D	S	Q	B	K	A	P	H	A	N	Q	U	I	Z
F	I	E	I	S	L	L	I	K	S	R	A	D	I	O
U	I	G	T	R	E	U	A	S	S	P	T	N	S	N
Y	P	R	H	S	H	V	N	T	E	L	A	S	H	E
T	A	O	M	T	U	C	I	T	C	E	N	N	O	C
I	U	T	I	L	S	R	E	E	T	O	N	A	W	A
L	L	C	E	E	Y	R	T	S	W	N	O	L	W	L
A	I	A	M	S	S	A	I	U	O	S	U	P	E	L
N	N	A	N	I	E	L	C	H	S	Y	N	S	I	A
O	E	S	X	B	A	H	N	C	R	W	C	U	V	W
S	E	T	U	N	I	M	A	A	O	F	E	G	R	A
R	Y	F	R	C	Y	M	M	S	V	B	R	N	E	L
E	F	U	A	R	R	Ⓗ	Ⓞ	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Y	B	A	T	L
P	O	G	O	O	E	N	I	A	R	R	O	L	N	I
J	O	N	N	O	I	T	A	M	R	O	F	N	I	K

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 5/30

Actor, Angus, Announcer, Beat, Blunt, Buff, Chicago, Chris, Cobb, Connecticut, Eames, Firmly, **Frank**, Host, Information, Interview, Journalist, Kaphan, Leon, Lorraine, Mary, Massachusetts, Minutes, Myron, Navy, News, Night, Norma, Pauline, Personality, Peter, Plans, Quiz, Radio, Show, Sixty, Skills, Talk, Trusted, Views, Wallace, Wallik, Yates, Zina, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Foundation

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Used Ford Contour Sport 1998. 98K miles. Call Grant at 285-0095. Asking Price is $1500 or B.O.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution: Wright Brothers

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN

Guest Services Agent

Qualifications: Minimum 2 years work experience in providing quality customer service preferably in hotel operations. Guest Services Agent is responsible for providing guest with fast, friendly and efficient service. Strong problem solving skills is essential and must be able to multi-task and work independently. Frequent walking and standing on the job is required. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds and can work a flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays. Foreign language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is highly preferred.

Application may be obtained from Fiesta Resort's security office located on the South Wing. Closing date for applications to be submitted and considered is June 8th.

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SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Position: **(1) RESTAURANT MANAGER**

Qualifications: **Knowledge:** Must have working knowledge of the following: overall hotel operations; departmental planning; project conceptualization; coordination of projects; computer operation; people management; different cultures and nationalities; Four (4) years practical experience working in a hotel environment, specifically in the F&B Divisions, or a combination of the two department operations. Minimum of two (2) years experience in managing hotel restaurant.

Skills: Must have hands-on experience and solid skills in the hotel reservations; problem solving; oral and written communication. Must be able to lead, manage, and motivate staff. Must have ability to work with international staff. Must be able to work under pressure and in a team environment.

Personal Qualities: Must be well-organized, professional disposition, professional appearance, excellent social skills, mature, responsible, open-minded, flexible, with strong sense of integrity and work ethics.

Experience Required: College Degree graduate, plus minimum of two continuous years experience in F&B Department at managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort.

Duties: Coordinates food service activities of hotel, restaurant, or other similar establishment or at social functions. Estimate food and beverage costs, and requisitions or purchase supplies. Confers with food preparation and other personnel to plan menus and related activities such as dining room, bar and banquet operations. Directs hiring and assignment or personnel. Investigates and resolves food quality and service complaints. May review financial transactions and monitor budget limitation. May be designated according to type of establishment or specialty.

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

IN SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MD. ABDUL KADER Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0212
vs.	)	
LAMELLA BLESAM Respondent	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505775, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger of Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Orville
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Find today's solution in classified section

James scores 32 as Heat run past Celtics in Game 1

MIAMI (AP)—The way LeBron James and Dwyane Wade are rolling right now, one bad quarter is hardly too much for the Miami Heat to overcome.

And with that, the Heat are three wins away from another trip to the NBA finals.

James scored 32 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Wade scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and the Heat beat the Boston Celtics 93-79 on Monday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

"One down. And they still have an opportunity in Game 2 to accomplish what they want to," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said, referring to how Boston can still grab home-court advantage by winning Game 2. "At times it was a strange game. Some good runs, both teams. We felt we could have played better and I'm sure they felt the same thing. But we found a way to grind it."

Shane Battier, playing in the conference finals for the first time, had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat, who wasted an early 11-point first-half lead, then gave up 35 second-quarter points before running away to break a halftime tie - getting going with a 9-2 run early in the third.

Miami outrebounded the Celtics 48-33, blocked 11 shots and didn't trail at any time.

"A block is like a dunk," Wade said. "It gets your team going."

Kevin Garnett had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Boston, which got 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists from Rajon Rondo and 12 points from Paul Pierce. Ray Allen shot just 1 for 7 from the floor for Boston, which was outscored by 10 in the first quarter and 11 in the third.

"On the road, you can't have two quarters of lulls," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Miami.

And while both sides would say there's a long way to go in this series, Game 1 winners have a decided edge in any best-of-seven, the conference final being no exception. In the most recent 10 postseasons, teams with 1-0 leads in conference finals have advanced 15 out of 20 times.

James and Wade scored 197 points in the final three games of Miami's second-round series with Indiana, all those games being Heat wins. The momentum carried over into Game 1 with the Celtics.

"We get a lot of the press, we get a lot of the headlines," James said. "But our teammates, they do everything to help us win ball games."

It's the third straight year the Heat and Celtics have met in the playoffs, and the third straight year James has seen his postseason path go through Boston—the first of those matchups coming in 2010 in his final run with Cleveland.

Each of those came in the first or second rounds, not this close to the NBA finals. And yes, the rivalry seems to be heating again.

"They're home, they're comfortable and when you're comfortable you do things like that," Garnett said, suggesting that Miami was showboating at times down the stretch. "We have to show them to take them out of their comfort zone. We've got to fight a lot harder."

Last season's Miami-Boston series ended with James scoring the final 10 points of Game 5, and the start of this year's matchup had him putting on another offensive display.

He had 13 points in the first quarter—two more than the entire Celtics roster—and Miami ran out to a 21-11 lead after the opening period. Garnett made three of his four shots in the quarter, while everyone else in Boston green was 2 for 16 from the floor.

"I thought they were ready to play," Rivers said. "I'm talking about Miami. I thought we kind of joined the game."

The 11 points matched the lowest output by any team in the opening quarter this postseason. The other team to manage that few was San Antonio, which then dropped 32 on the Los Angeles Clippers in the second quarter of their game on May 19.

The Celtics' response was even better.

Boston scored 35 in the second quarter, erasing what was an 11-point deficit early in the period by scoring 27 points in the final 8:46 of the half to pull into a 46-all tie. Rondo, Garnett and Pierce combined to score 23 points in the quarter, looking absolutely vintage, near-perfect offensive execution getting to Miami time and time again.

And the Celtics' comeback happened even while they got hit with three technical fouls in the second quarter, plus Allen missing four first-half free throws—matching his career-worst for an entire game.

"We may never see that again," Rivers said.

In the end, it went down as merely a one-quarter lapse for Miami.

Another technical foul, this one on Rondo, came in the third quarter, likely born from frustration as the Heat started to roll again.

With the game tied at 50, Rondo missed three shots in a 31-second span early in the third, the last of those getting blocked by Battier—who hit a 3-pointer 11 seconds later. It started a 9-2 Miami burst, including a touchdown pass from Wade to James—Wade grabbed the rebound of a miss by Pierce, spun and delivered a 90-foot pass to the reigning MVP—for an easy score.

"We knew at halftime we hadn't played our best basketball," James said. "So we just had to stop making the mental mistakes and start to play the way we're capable of playing."

And that's what happened.

Miami led by as many as 13 late in the third, before taking a 72-61 lead into the fourth. James scored 10 more in the third, Boston went cold again, shooting just 27 percent in the period, and Wade's left-handed bullet pass into the lane set up Joel Anthony for a dunk that pushed the Heat lead to 15 with 10:13 remaining.

Pierce was 5 for 18. Rondo shot 8 of 20. Ray Allen was 1 for 7 from the floor and 3 for 7 from the foul line—missing four free throws for just the third time in his 1,270 career regular-season and playoff games.

"We kept fighting," Rondo said. "It wasn't pretty. We missed four or five layups, a bunch of free throws. That being said, we were tied at halftime but we just didn't come out with the right mindset in the second half."

Miami did and takes a 1-0 lead into Game 2 as its reward. But James said he knows Boston is far from done.

"I look at them as a top opponent, as a top contender and a competitive group ... a championship-caliber team," James said.

AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) drives to the basket against Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) during the first half of Game 1 in their NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoffs series, Monday, May, 28, 2012, in Miami.

Bosh workout 'light,' still no timetable on return

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh is taking steps toward returning to the Miami lineup, though it remains unclear when the Heat will actually see their All-Star forward in uniform again.

Bosh, who has been sidelined since straining a lower abdominal muscle in Game 1 of Miami's second-round series against Indiana, did what the Heat called a "very light" on-court workout Sunday. Heat coach Erik Spoelstra categorized the session as part of the progression of Bosh's rehab program and continued to say there's no target date for his return.

"I wouldn't over-read into his workout yesterday," Spoelstra said Monday. "We'll continue to reevaluate him every day. He'll continue to do his rehab. When he starts legitimate basketball work, I'll pay attention a little bit more."

Miami hosts Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals against the Boston Celtics on Monday night. For now, the Celtics are more concerned with figuring out ways to deal with LeBron James and Dwyane Wade.

Still, Bosh is in the Celtics' scouting report. And if he's back at any point in the series, Boston expects to be ready.

"We're prepared to see him," Celtics forward Paul Pierce said. "If he's able to come back, I mean, that's great. You never wish any injury amongst your NBA brothers. You expect the best of them. And as a competitor, I don't mind taking on the opponent team's best. It brings out the best in you, I think, and it helps prepare you for championship runs."

Bosh averaged 15 points and 7.2 rebounds in Miami's first-round series win over the New York Knicks. He had 13 points and five rebounds in the first half of Game 1 against Indiana on May 13, getting hurt just before intermission when he stretched out for a dunk and strained the muscle. An MRI exam a day later confirmed the original diagnosis of a strain.

"His uniform is in his locker and we'll be ready for him to go," James said. "Other than that, we're playing as if he's not in uniform. It's allowing us to focus on the guys that are in uniform, and it's putting less pressure on him to try to rush and get back. It's a sensitive injury. So whenever he's ready, he'll be in uniform."

Indiana coach Frank Vogel said that Bosh's absence helped Miami—in the sense that it meant more shots for Wade and James, who combined to average 65.7 points in the final three games of the Pacers series.

Celtics coach Doc Rivers shared a similar sentiment Monday.

"Obviously Bosh makes them better," Rivers said. "But in some ways, you can say they're more dangerous because now those 15 shots that Bosh had, they're going to Wade and LeBron. So in some ways, they have the ball more. They're more aggressive. It almost activated them to be more aggressive, which puts a lot of stress on your defense."

Bosh averaged 12.8 points and 10.2 rebounds for Miami against the Celtics in last year's East semifinals, which the Heat won in five games.

"They're more Wade- and LeBron-dominant without Bosh," Celtics guard Keyon Dooling said. "Those guys have really picked up slack. So in that aspect, they're a little bit different. In the rebound category, obviously they miss him. His ability to make shots off of Dwyane's and LeBron's pick-and-rolls and stuff is something that's missed."

Duncan planning to re-sign with Spurs this summer

Tim Duncan put to rest any questions about his pending free-agent status. Duncan will not be leaving the San Antonio Spurs when he becomes a free agent on July 1, he told Yahoo Sports' Johnny Ludden after a Game 1 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder in the Western Conference Finals.

"No … I'm not going anywhere," Duncan told Ludden. "You can print that wherever you want to. I'm here and I'm a Spur for life."

Duncan also talked about doubts he had about his future. At some points, he and the organization both wondered how long he would be able to hold up. Last season, his left knee gave him trouble. But after a resurgence, Duncan sees himself playing another season or two.

"I got to the point where I was depressed and pissed off that my body wasn't doing the things that it used to do, and that I was deteriorating skill-wise," he said. "I'm a competitor. I want to be a staple on a team, I want to be a go-to guy on a team. When that changed, that obviously hurt a little bit. But I found ways to be a part of this team and be a big part of this team."

Duncan said that over the years, he also wondered if the team's core of Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker and himself would stick together in the long run. They have because their relationship "works."

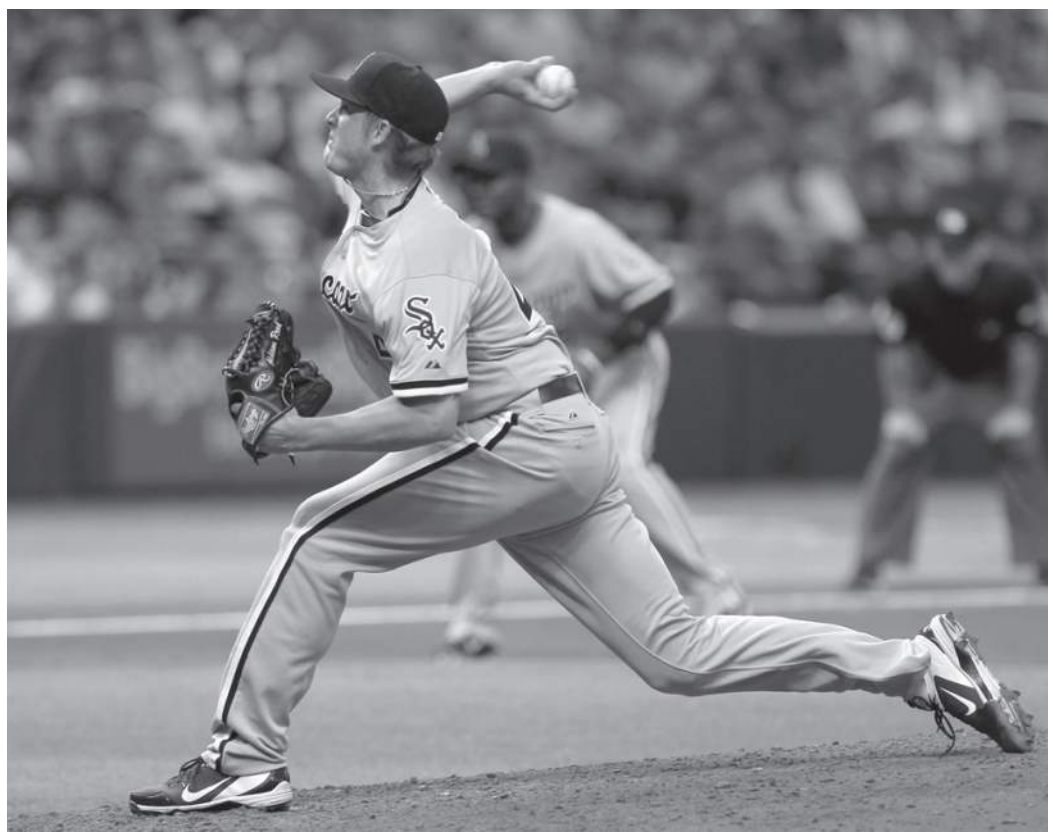
"We've all found a home here in San Antonio," Duncan said, "and we all love it here."

"If something doesn't work, you break it up and you do something else. We've all accepted our roles, we've evolved over the years and we've all been happy with it because we believe." ***(www.si.com)***

Sale has 15 strikeouts as White Sox beat Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Chris Sale struck out a career-high 15 and Adam Dunn hit a two-run homer as the Chicago White Sox extended their winning streak to six games with a 2-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday.

Sale (6-2) gave up one run, three hits and walked two in 7 1-3 innings while finishing one strikeout shy of the team record Jack Harshman set against Boston on July 25, 1954. Sale matched Detroit's Max Scherzer for the most in a game this season, set May 20 against Pittsburgh.



AP

Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Addison Reed delivers to Tampa Bay Rays' Luke Scott during the ninth inning of a baseball game Monday, May 28, 2012, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Govt to wrap up its perjury case against Clemens

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is expected to finish its perjury case against former major league pitcher Roger Clemens on Tuesday, and the defense should begin its case.

The trial is entering its seventh week. Clemens' lawyers say they will need seven or eight court days to put on their defense.

On Friday, a government witness testified that two cotton balls and a syringe needle—allegedly saved after a steroids injection—tested positive for Clemens' DNA.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, is accused of lying to Congress in 2008 when he denied using steroids or human growth hormone.

Earlier in the trial, Brian McNamee, Clemens' former strength and conditioning coach, said he had injected Clemens with steroids in 1998, 2000 and 2001 and with human growth hormone in 2000.

Angels 9, Yankees 8

In Anaheim, California, Mark Trumbo hit a game-ending home run to left as the Los Angeles Angels overcame Jered Weaver's first-inning injury exit for their seventh consecutive victory.

Trumbo doubled and tripled before launching the final pitch from Yankees reliever Cory Wade (0-1) into the stands.

Rangers 4, Mariners 2

In Arlington, Texas, Mike Napoli and Nelson Cruz both homered before combining on a big defensive play, and Matt Harrison pitched eight strong innings to lead Texas past Seattle.

Napoli homered for the second game in a row when he hit a tiebreaking, three-run shot in the sixth off reliever Steve Delabar (1-1). Cruz went deep in the second to help the Rangers win their fourth straight game.

Red Sox 7, Tigers 4

In Boston, Felix Doubront pitched six innings of four-hit ball, and Jarrod Saltalamacchia homered as Boston downed Detroit.

The victory was tainted by an injury to 2008 American League most valuable player Dustin Pedroia, who left in the fifth inning with a jammed right thumb.

Twins 5, Athletics 4

In Minneapolis, Justin Morneau drove in two runs for Minnesota, including the tying double in the eighth, as the Twins sent Oakland to its sixth straight loss.

Matt Capps was booed when he took the mound but bounced back from his first blown attempt of the season the day before by striking out his final batter, Jonny Gomes, with the bases loaded in the ninth for his 10th save. Minnesota stopped a five-game skid.

Indians 8, Royals 5

In Cleveland, Jose Lopez had three RBIs, Jason Kipnis drove in two runs and Josh Tomlin (2-2) gave up four runs and four hits in five innings as Cleveland beat Kansas City broke a three-game losing streak.

Kipnis had a two-run single in a five-run third inning off Nate Adcock (0-3) as the first-place Indians maintained a half-game lead in the AL Central over the White Sox. Cleveland had lost three in a row at Chicago over the weekend.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 2

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion and Kelly Johnson each hit a two-run homer, and Drew Hutchison struck out a career-high nine in seven shutout innings as Toronto beat Baltimore to end a five-game losing streak.

Encarnacion hit his 16th homer in the third. Last year, he did not hit his first home run until May 29. He finished with 17.

Phillies 8, Mets 4

In New York, Ty Wigginton drove in a career-high six runs with a homer and a pair of two-out hits and Cole Hamels won his eighth straight decision to lead the Philadelphia Phillies over the New York Mets.

A day after the Phillies lost Roy Halladay to shoulder soreness after two innings, Hamels (8-1) allowed four runs and seven hits in eight innings to match St. Louis' Lance Lynn for the major league lead in wins.

Cardinals 8, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Lance Lynn (8-1) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings as St. Louis extended Atlanta's losing streak to eight games.

Atlanta is on its worst skid since losing nine straight from April 21-29, 2010. The Braves have given up seven runs or more in four straight games for the first time since five in a row from July 26-30, 2008, according to STATS LLC.

Marlins 5, Nationals 3

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton hit his 11th home run in May, one short of the Marlins' record for a month, in a win over Washington.

Stanton tied the score in the sixth with his 12th homer of the year, Logan Morrison homered and scored twice, and Hanley Ramirez had three hits and a sacrifice fly.

Cubs 11, Padres 7

In Chicago, Alfonso Soriano hit a go-ahead home run as Chicago stopped its 12-game losing streak with a victory over San Diego.

The Cubs' skid was their worst since they opened the 1997 season with 14 straight losses.

Winds were blowing out at gusts up to 35 mph on a 90-degree day at Wrigley Field, and the ball was flying. There were eight home runs, including four by each team and two from San Diego's Chase Headley, and a total of 17 extra-base hits.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 2

In San Francisco, Barry Zito outpitched Trevor Cahill in a matchup of former Oakland All-Stars, and Brandon Belt hit an RBI triple to help San Francisco beat Arizona.

Gregor Blanco doubled twice, drove in a run and made a pretty, game-ending catch on the warning track in right with two runners aboard. Blanco also scored on a double steal in the Giants' three-run first.

Pirates 4, Reds 1

In Pittsburgh, James McDonald (4-2) scattered five hits over eight shutout innings as Pittsburgh climbed back to .500 with a win over Cincinnati.

Pedro Alvarez, Rod Barajas and Neil Walker all had two hits apiece and knocked in a run for the Pirates (24-24), who won their season-high fourth and reached .500 for the first time since their fourth game.

Brewers 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Aramis Ramirez hit a tying homer and singled in the go-ahead run to help Milwaukee defeat Los Angeles.

Shaun Marcum (3-3) allowed one run and six hits in seven innings, struck out nine and walked two to end a two-game skid. John Axford pitched the ninth for his eighth save in nine chances.

Rockies 9, Astros 7, 1st game
Rockies 7, Astros 6, 10 innings, 2nd game

In Denver, Dexter Fowler capped a big day at the plate with a game-ending triple in the 10th inning to give Colorado a doubleheader sweep of Houston.

Fowler, who hit a leadoff homer in the first, lined a pitch from Brett Myers (0-2) past diving first baseman Carlos Lee and the ball ended up in the right-field corner as Michael Cuddyer, who singled, scored from first.

In the opener of the Astros' first doubleheader since 2006, Jordan Pacheco blooped a tie-breaking, two-run single for the Rockies after an eighth-inning error by Houston shortstop Jed Lowrie.

Matt Belisle (2-2) pitched a scoreless inning and Rafael Betancourt got three outs for his ninth save.

Federer reaches another milestone at French Open

PARIS (AP)—Only a short time after reaching yet another tennis milestone, Roger Federer was stumped.

He had just won his 233rd match at a Grand Slam tournament, equaling the Open era record set by Jimmy Connors, and he couldn't remember whom he had beaten to get that first victory.

"Well, I should (know), shouldn't I?" Federer said after defeating Tobias Kamke of Germany 6-2, 7-5, 6-3 Monday in the first round of the French Open. "I know it was in Australia, but I can't remember who I was playing."

He was then reminded that it was Michael Chang.

"Oh, was it?" Federer said, a bit surprised. "Well, that was a beautiful victory, then."

Whether it was or not, that win in 2000 started Federer on a career that has seen him win a record 16 Grand Slam titles and garner a slew of other records along the way.

And he's only 30.

"I obviously love the big tournaments," Federer said. "I have been so successful for such a long time and to already tie that record - 30 years old is pretty incredible, so I'm very happy."

Besides Federer, top-ranked Novak Djokovic advanced to the second round on Day 2 of the French Open. Djokovic, who is trying to win his fourth straight Grand Slam title, beat Potito Starace of Italy 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-1.

In the women's tournament, top-ranked Victoria Azarenka won 12 of the final 14 games to come back and beat Alberta Brianti of Italy 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-2. Defending champion Li Na also progressed, along with No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska.

On Tuesday, defending champion Rafael Nadal will begin his quest for a record-breaking seventh title at Roland Garros. On the women's side, 13-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams and second-seeded Maria Sharapova are scheduled to be in action.

For Federer, this year's French Open is his 52nd major tournament, and 50th in a row. Just more stats to show how consistent the Swiss star has been over the last dozen years.

"When you look at the tournaments like this and you step back, you realize you have been playing for quite a long time," Federer said. "When I started, I loved playing against those famous players I used to see on TV. Now I'm playing against younger players, a new generation. It's also very nice."

On Monday, Federer wasn't perfect, but he didn't struggle, either.

He was broken once in each set, including while serving for the match at 5-2 in the third. He also piled up 47 unforced errors, 16 more than Kamke.

"They're never easy, those first rounds, you know. Last thing you want is to go down a set or getting in a tough situation, but I was able to stay ahead in the first set. Had bits of ups and downs on my serve," Federer said. "But overall, I'm happy I'm through. That's what I look at in the end."

Djokovic played in the main stadium and didn't face a break point in the entire match. But he still struggled to take the first set from Starace.

"At the start ... I was still trying to find the rhythm and movement on the court. And he obviously played a very good first set," Djokovic said. "But when I look at it now, after the match is over, maybe it was good for me to have the tough first set."

Azarenka had the toughest time of the top players on court Monday. She trailed 4-0 in the second set and needed to save two break points before winning the next six games.

She was then broken to open the third set, but still managed to reach the second round and avoid becoming the first top-seeded woman to lose in the first round at the French Open since the tournament began to allow foreign entrants in 1925.

"Sometimes I felt it was not my day. Sometimes I thought, `Yeah, maybe I still fight. I still have a chance,'" said Azarenka, who took over the No. 1 ranking by winning the Australian Open. "Sometimes it was like, `You know what? Forget it. I don't want to do it.'"

SSC to start water polo program in June

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Water polo is back on Saipan.

The good news came after Saipan Swim Club decided to offer a water polo program to interested individuals through the help of former collegiate standouts Jeff El-Hajj, Tyce Mister, and Colin Thompson.

"The Saipan Swim Club is proud to announce a new free program in June being offered to SSC and Tsunami swimmers 8 years and older. The children will be taught the basics of the game, learn the egg-beater kick, and practice passing and shooting," stated in the SSC media release forwarded to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The lessons on introduction to water polo will be held every Saturday from 3:15pm to 4:30pm at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

A separate lesson for adult swimmers will also be held every Saturday, from 4:30pm to 6:15pm, for a fee of only $30 per month. The adults sessions are for SSC Masters and those who have good swimming skills. The fee will also allow Masters swimmers to use the Marpi pool at noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Water polo will return to Saipan after former assistant U.S. attorney Kevin Seely and Elijah McDanniel introduced the sport to the island and joined off-island competitions decades ago, according to SSC. Former SSC coach Bill Sakovich also included water polo to the activities of his swimmers while they are training in the 1980s.

"For several years we had water polo as part of our Saipan Swim Club training and would play occasionally during the season. Jeannie (his wife) and I felt it is important to our program, for cross training, variety, and fun, along with a possibility for our swimmers going to colleges. Early in the season, we had them play one to two times a week for about three months, later it was once in awhile," Sakovich said.

"Back in the early '80s, my former swimming and water polo coach from UCLA visited Saipan and basically did a swim clinic and a little water polo, and he sent me used water polo balls from UCLA. The Laguna High School team along with philanthropist Bruce Hopping from Laguna Beach donated water polo goals and balls when they came to Saipan for a clinic in 1996," he added.

With water polo back on Saipan, SSC assured interested participants that they are in good hands with the club's experienced coaches.

"The coaches volunteering for SSC's program have excellent credentials and are very experienced in the sport. Jeff played water polo for four years in high school and three years at the University of Southern California where he was on the National Championship team in 2003 and 2005," SSC said.

El-Hajj also joined Masters tournaments in California and Arizona and coached high schools boys for two summers and the Santa Monica Water Polo Club from September 2010 to November 2011.

Mister assisted Sakovich when SSC had water polo lessons and games back then. He also played the sport for two years both in high school and college (Cabrillo College) and represented the CNMI and teamed up with Guam players in two international events, according to SSC.

Thompson is the most decorated among the three volunteer coaches. He was an All-Time Letterman for four years at the University of California at Berkeley and was a member of the National championship team in 1983 and 1984. In high school in Newport Beach, California, Thompson was on the runner-up team that joined the AAU/USA Junior Olympic water polo games.

Former SSC swimmer Jennifer Pierce will be assisting the three coaches.

Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank Josh Berger, Jeff Taylor, Thompson, Sibylla Leon Guerrero, Robyn Wondrasek, and Suzy Kindel for their contribution for the construction of a water polo goal.

For more information about the program, contact Kindel at suzykindel@yahoo.com.

OL'ACES

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Ol'Aces' Jonah Flores came away with a two-RBI single that scored Carlos Rabauliman Jr. and T.J. Sablan, who both drew free passes, after Lancaster Secharmidal and A.J. Lizama runs came in earlier off a wild pitch and an error.

Falcons' Jose Lizama doubled in Brandon Lieto, who busted a one-out triple in the top of the second inning, but Ol' Aces got it back in the bottom half from some more errors.

Then after a quiet third, the Ol'Aces' top of the order jumped in front, 10-2, off four hits in the fourth inning.

A fielder's choice and an error set up a two-RBI base rip by A.J. Lizama who was escorted home by Rabauliman and Flores brought him in before scoring himself off an infield error. Falcons' Jose Lizama delivered an RBI double in the top of the inning.

Ol'Aces speedster Frankie Camacho reached on a single and scored off a wild pitch in the fifth before the Falcons sparked a four-run uprising to start the fifth off four hits to trim its deficit to 6-11.

Three hits right off the bat knocked Ol'Aces starter Secharmidal off the mound, but the real damage came afterwards as his reliever A.J. Lizama had a tough time finding his zone.

A two-RBI triple by Frankie Norita added insult to a leadoff walk that enabled a run to the plate. Norita found his way around as well and scored off a passed ball.

Fortunately, Ol'Aces had a lot of rope to work with and though another run came off errors in the last frame, they held it together and got it done.

Ol'Aces' A.J. Lizama batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, and a hit by pitch.

Falcons' Jose Lizama swung 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a run.

The rest of the Ol'Aces roster includes Paul Bowie, Fermin Renguul, Ken Taguchi, Zakary Yamagishi, and Tiger Yatsui.

Tony Flores manages the squad with Walter Macaranas and Mark Flores serving as coaches.

Results of the Big League championship will be published in tomorrow's *Saipan Tribune*.

SWIM

From Page 28

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation recognized as a new entry in the CNMI record books.

Besides her record swims, Tammy also took the overall championship in the girls U10 age group of the two-day competition. She gained the top honors in her age group after winning gold medals in six events—50m freestyle (34.17 seconds), 100m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke (1:22.95), and 200m backstroke.

Ryuto Yanai also ruled the boys U10 division, as he reigned in four events, including his record swim in the 100m freestyle, and won silver medals in two other races. The younger Yanai finished the 100m freestyle in 1:15.18, eclipsing his own mark (1:15.69) made on March 14, 2012.

Besides winning the 100m freestyle, Ryuto also claimed gold medals in the 50m freestyle (34.23 seconds), 100m butterfly (1:26.36), and 50m breaststroke (46.02 seconds). Then his silver medals came from the 200m freestyle (2:42.48) and 100m backstroke (1:32.05).

Ryuto's eldest brother, Kaito, raced in six individual events, resetting his own mark and CNMI age group record in 100m breaststroke after timing in at 1:18.81. Kaito's previous record was 1:19.26 and posted on Dec. 3, 2011.

Kaito won the 100m breaststroke event and also the 50m freestyle (30.96 seconds), 200m freestyle (2:22.25), 50m breaststroke (46.02 seconds), 100m backstroke (1:17.55), and 200m individual medley (2:39.60) to claim the boys 11 to 12 championship.

Kaito and Ryuto and Tammy were among the 12 Tsunami Saipan swimmers who joined the last competition of the season, battling the various clubs in Guam and Saipan Swim Club representatives. Results of other Tsunami Saipan bets will be reported later this week.

SSC

From Page 28

earn 39 points and place in the Top 3 in the 11 to 12 age group. He ruled the 100m freestyle (1:08.33), beating Guam's Tanner Poppe (1:09.24) and Kai Aricayos (1:12.73) and the 400m freestyle (5:08.99), downing Aricayos (5:09.69). Akimaru's runner-up finishes came from the 50m breaststroke (40.81 seconds), 200m freestyle (2:28.16), and the 50m freestyle (31.80 seconds).

Duplicating Akimaru's third place finish was Chentsova, who joined the girls 13 to 14 age group and collected 37 points. The 14-year-old Chentsova won the 200m freestyle (2:24.16) against Guam's Sahyay Limtiaco (2:46.83) and Lorelei Poppe (2:50.19) and placed second in four other events—100m freestyle (1:05.85/ personal best), 100m backstroke (1:19.54), 50m backstroke (37.82 seconds), and the 50m freestyle (30.83 seconds). Chentsova also joined forces with Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy, Angel Tan, and Angel De Jesus in the 200m medley relay and timed in at 2:26.36, just less than two seconds behind the Guam record (2:25.29).

Sato also had 37 points for third place in the U10 division after placing third in the 100m breaststroke (1:52.67), fifth in the 100m freestyle (1:26.63), fourth in the 100m freestyle (3:03.07), first in the 400m freestyle (6:28.78) and 200m IM (3:37.62), and fifth in the 50m freestyle (41.37 seconds). Nine-year-old Sato made three new personal best times, including a 20-second drop from his previous PBT in the 400m.

Three other 9-year-old SSC swimmers—Lennosuke Suzuki, Naoki Kasai, and Rinto Takahashi—joined the Guam meet and won medals in their respective races. Suzuki was runner-up in the 100m breaststroke (1:47.33/PBT) third in 100m butterfly (1:59.92), 200m freestyle (2:51.89), and 50m breaststroke (49.67 seconds), and sixth in the 100m backstroke (1:47.80). Kasai ruled the 100m breaststroke (1:44.87/PBT) and finished second in the 50m breaststroke (48.06), while Takahashi was runner-up in the 200m IM (3:41:13) and 50m backstroke (46.21 seconds) and fourth in the 100m backstroke (1:42.47). All three and Sato also raced in the 200m freestyle event and placed second with a time of 2:44.53.

Meanwhile, SSC president Robert Torres congratulated the seven swimmers and coach Mieko Carey for a job well done.

"Victoria Chentsova, Kento Akimaru, and Taiga Sato placed in the Top 3 overall despite a strong field of swimmers from several clubs on Guam. The talented and spirited 9-year-old crew of SSC swimmers also did very well. Coach Mieko urged and inspired the kids to do their best and be their best and they came through. SSC would like to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their assistance in arranging for the swimmers' stay at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Guam," Torres said.

N. YANKEES

From Page 28

and the D-9ers (0-4) representing the rest of the field.

The season continues tonight on Tan Ko Field at 6:30pm with the Brewers (3-1) taking on the D-9ers.

Northern Yankees 10, Masters 0

Northern Yankees star pitcher Joshua Jones put on a nice little one-hit display on the mound through seven innings in his final appearance before heading off play to start his college career with the Colby Community College Trojans in Colby, Kansas.

At the plate, the Yankees took a swift 5-0 lead in the bottom of the very first inning off four hits.

Ben Jones led off with a single and was driven home by Chris Camacho after stealing second and third base.

Jared Camacho later reached on a fielder's choice and was brought in along with Chris Camacho by a base rip by Joshua Jones.

He scored soon after off an error, while Navan Falig was escorted home by T.J. Agulto before the Masters could escape the inning.

Masters hurler Paul Camacho held the Yanks in the second frame, but they managed to add a run in the third from an RBI double by Agulto that scored Falig.

The league leaders fell silent for the next two innings before bringing around two more runs to close the sixth off a pair of back to back RBI singles by Chris Camacho and Jonathan Tenorio, scoring David Camacho Jr. and Dave Jones.

The Masters just missed its best chance to spark a rally earlier in top half of the fifth inning when they managed a couple base runners off a walk and a base smash by Mabel Ngirengmeles and were denied access to first base by Joshua Jones in the what turned out to be the final two innings.

The Yankees needed only four at bats to work around the two runs needed for the early decision.

Chad Castro drew a one-out walk and was doubled home by Agulto, after which David Camacho Jr. stepped in a delivered the walk off single for the win.

Winning pitcher Joshua Jones gave up just one hit and three walks with eight strikeouts through seven innings of work.

Agulto batted 3-for-4 with four RBIs and a run. Chris Camacho went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a run.

Northern Yankees 10, Ol'Aces 0

Yankees' Joshua Jones dealt a two-hit shutout and sat down 17 batters in the group's May 16 matchup against Ol'Aces.

Yankees' Gary Cruz broke the ice with an RBI single in the second inning, bringing home John Salas and the northerners posted up four more runs in the fourth inning off five hits.

Salas bagged an RBI single, scoring Jerome Delos Santos before being brought to the plate again by Cruz. Jared Camacho then delivered him home before Ben Jones cleaned it all up with a triple.

The Yankees then added its final run in the fifth inning from a base rip by Jared Camacho, bringing Salas to the dish for the third time in the game.

Ol'Aces pitcher Juan Iguel tamed the Yanks in the last three innings, but the group could not figure out a way to the plate on Joshua Jones' watch.

Ol'Aces' Jess Iguel made it to the path four times in the game and was stranded in scoring position three times, twice at third base.

Other than that the Ol'Aces managed only three other base runners, two of which were also left in scoring position. The Yanks also picked off three other runners in the path.

Yankees' Salas batted 2-for-2 at the plate for an RBI, three runs, and two bases on balls. Cruz swung 3-for-4 for two RBIs and a run.

Winning pitcher Joshua Jones went all nine and faced 33 batters, giving up two hits and five walks with 17 strikeouts.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

QQ Rent-A-Car's Elgene Mangali in action against Ashley's in last Monday's Blue Haus caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

QQ Rent-A-Car, Saipan Hardware win in Blue Haus

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Six late free throws assured a 79-76 victory for QQ Rent-A-Car over Ashley's, while Saipan Hardware came away the victor over a feisty NVM team, 51-46, as the Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League continued Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Action picks up tonight at 6:30pm in Garapan when Loving Hand takes on Cargo Express followed by the R-Rebels against Star Water at 8:30pm.

QQ-Rent-A-Car sped off to an early 24-17 lead in the opening 10 minutes thanks to a pair of 3-pointers by Marlon Sison and 7 points from Elgene Mangali. They then stretched it to a 45-35 spread at halftime, as seven different players put a hand in offensively in the second quarter.

Ashely's center Jack Lizama and forward Randy Mungcal combined for 19 in the first half that helped keep their team in contention, but the team as a whole struggled on defense against the younger QQ speedsters.

QQ hotshot Ichitaro Faisao took the helm after the break and chimed in 9 points to preserve a 59-46 margin heading into the last frame.

Ashley's trio of Lizama, Mungcal, and Edmark Mendoza jumped on their horses in the payoff period and scuffled out six points apiece in the clutch that gave them a chance to pull off the upset.

However, 7 points from QQ's Faisao in addition to the aforementioned free throws—the last three coming from Badong Camacho—sealed the deal.

Faisao led all scorers with 22 points, while Lizama managed 19 in the loss for Ashley's.

The night match started out locked up at 10-all after the opening period before Saipan Hardware sharpened a 22-17 edge at halftime in what turned out to be a highly defensive matchup.

Saipan Hardware's Errol Peredo paced the group with 10 markers through midpoint, while NVM remained in search of a finding the right group of players to breach their opponents' security.

Saipan Hardware's Alex Lauron grabbed the baton and racked up 8 points in a critical third quarter push that put them in front, 38-25, but NVM never laid down in the game and flirted with a fourth quarter comeback.

Preston Basa nailed a couple of 3-pointers, while a number of their opponent's shots took some bad bounces on the other side, but although a little sloppy, Saipan Hardware held it down in the end.

Peredo led the victors with 16 points, while NVM's Jawn Joyner and Melvin Manibusan were held to just 8 points apiece.

First Game

QQ Rent-A-Car 79 – Faisao 22, Mangali 14, Pagarao 9, Camacho 9, Sison 8, Paraiso 6, Acosta 4, Sablan 3.

Ashley's 76 – Lizama 19, Mungcal 18, Cortes 10, Abuel 8, Mendoza 7, Norita 5, Inos 4, Manipon 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-17, 45-35, 59-46, 79-76.

Second Game

Saipan Hardware 51 – Peredo 16, Lauron 12, Quan 8, Babauta 5, J. Diaz 5, Palacios 3, Z. Diaz 2.

NVM 46 – Joyner 8, Manibusan 8, Basa 6, Cadiang 6, Mendiola 5, Barcinas 4, Ritual 3, Mina 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-10, 22-17, 38-25, 51-46.

Over $100K in prizes in HANMI golf tourney

Organizers report over $100,000 in cash and prizes up for grabs in this Saturday's 11th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament at Mariana Country Club.

Four hole-in-one prizes include $20,000 cash from HANMI; $10,500 cash combined from Century Insurance, AON Insurance, and Traders Insurance, and two roundtrip airline tickets to Japan by Saipan Air; $10,000 cash from IP&E, and a Hyundai Accent from Triple J Motors; and two roundtrip airline tickets to the U.S. or Honolulu by Delta Air Lines, and a Hyundai Accent from Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Hertz Rent A Car.

HANMI HOTEL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

This year's fundraising tournament of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is open to the first 144 paid registrants. Early bird tournament fee is $100 for payments received by 5pm on Thursday, May 31. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $120 on Friday, June 1. ***(HANMI)***

Rastguiy takes first U15 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Negahr Rastguiy stretches for a return to Carol Lee during their game in the girls U15 division of the Micronesian tennis tournament last Monday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court in San Antonio.

Pint-sized Negahr Rastguiy earned her first girls U15 crown after going undefeated in the 2012 Micronesian Junior Tennis Championship played over at the weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard court in San Antonio.

Thirteen-year-old Rastguiy, who moved up from the U12 age group to the U15 division last year, topped the round-robin tournament last weekend, securing the championship after a 6-3, 6-1 win over Carol Lee last Monday afternoon. Rastguiy's two other victories were recorded against Isabel Heras last Saturday, 6-2, 6-1, and over Emily Jones last Sunday, 6-0, 6-2.

Lee settled for the runner-up honors with her 2-1 record. She won over Jones, 6-1, 6-2, last Saturday, and survived Heras last Sunday, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

In other results, Clayton Izuka and Julia Ishikawa gained the U12 championships, while Catherine Atalig and Kevin Kim took the U10 titles.

Izuka reigned supreme in the eight-player boys U12 draw, capping his domination of the three-day tournament with a finals sweep against Steven Goodwin. Izuka only lost one game in the tournament, as he drew a bye in the first round of the upper half draw, eliminated Joshua Abragan in the second, 6-1, 6-1, and survived Vincent Tudela in a three-set semis tiff, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6.

In the lower half draw, Goodwin also gained a bye in the opening round, downed Ken Song in the second, 6-4, 6-3, before pulling off an upset over second seed Michael Jones in the semis, 6-1, 6-1.

In the girls U12, Ishikawa was undefeated, winning over Tania Tan in the second round, 6-3, 6-2, against Hana Nelson in the semis, 6-1, 6-2, and versus Liza Atalig in the finals, 6-1, 6-0.

In the boys U12, the unseeded Kim stunned his favored foes to win the championship. He clinched the title last Monday morning after an 8-4 victory over Aditya Rai, who surprised top seed Mondo Taniguchi in the semis, 8-3. Kim, on the other hand, won over Tony Atalig in the other semis duel, 8-4, one day after he shut out Jeffrey Seo, 8-0.

Completing the list of Micronesian tournament winners was the top-seeded Catherine Atalig, who beat Asia Raulerson in the finals last Monday, 8-2. Atalig advanced to the finals after an 8-4 triumph over Conatsu Kaga in the semis, while Raulerson topped Ruth Ojima in the other Final Four game, 8-2.

KFC skips past San Roque in DLX league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KFC notched its second win in as many games after slipping past San Roque, 69-66, in the lone game played in the 2012 DLX Inter-Color Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

KFC recovered from a nine-point deficit in the last 4:40 of the match, dropping a 15-3 bomb with Ralph Francisco leading the comeback and Jeff Durant, Pat Tinio, and Herbert Maranan completing the uprising for the team's perfect record.

San Roque fell to a 0-2 card, as it was held to only three points in the final four minutes of the rain-delayed game, no thanks to several errors and hurried shots from Angelo Fernando.

The first match of the night was halted with over seven minutes left in the fourth and San Roque on top, 59-54. San Roque then resumed the game with a quick 4-0 scoring for a 63-54 advantage.

KFC sued for time and launched a 9-1 rally, behind the back-to-back triples of Francisco and a layup and split charity from Durant to move within one, 63-64, going into the last two minutes of the match. San Roque was held without a field goal for more than three minutes, as Fernando struggled against the tough defense of Maranan, while Durant controlled the defensive board for KFC.

An Art Salazar basket underneath gave San Roque more breathing room, but KFC refused to give up and finally took the lead off Tinio's back-to-back baskets. Tinio made a fastbreak layup off Fernando's missed shot and a few seconds later canned a short jumper for their 67-66 lead, 43 seconds left in the match.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

KFC's Pat Tinio escapes with a fastbreak layup during the closing minutes of their rain-delayed game against San Roque in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Salazar had a chance to regain the upper hand when he was temporarily left open in the paint, but elected to pass the ball, which was partially tapped by Tinio. The ball then rolled toward the left sideline with Francisco going for a save, but when he bounced the ball back into the playing court, it landed to the wrong hand's—Salazar's.

However, Francisco quickly redeemed himself from the early error, stealing the pocket of Salazar, who had his back turn against his defender. Francisco then went for the fastbreak play, but the basket was nullified, as the referee had already charged Fernando a preemptive foul near midcourt. Players missed the referee's whistle, as KFC supporters let go a loud cheer after the steal.

Francisco had to settle for two free throws in the last 18.3 seconds, but missed both. However, Durant got an offensive rebound, and although he muffed a shot underneath, Maranan grabbed another board and this time wasted a few more seconds before getting fouled. He then drilled both charities for the insurance and San Roque faltered on its attempt to send the game in overtime when Arnold Capuli missed a triple on the other end.

Meanwhile, the second game between Mawati and Docomo was rescheduled, as it rained before the match started.

KFC 69 – Francisco 25, Durant 19, Maranan 14, Tinio 6, Deleon Guerrero 3, Salas 2.

San Roque 66 – Fernando 27, Odicta 11, Mc. Achas 11, Salazar 10, Capuli 3, Villanueva 2, Lagado 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-19, 36-40, 50-53, 69-66.

James scores 32 as Heat run past Celtics in Game 1

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Sports

Sale has 15 strike-outs as White Sox beat Rays

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Ol'Aces top Falcons, win Senior League

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Docomo Pacific-Ol'Aces completed a perfect season in the Senior Division of the Saipan Little League by shooting down Natibu-Talaab-wogh Falcons, 11-7, in the championship match last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons endured some early troubles for allowing four runs on just one hit in the first inning.

See **Ol'ACES** on **Page 26**

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Ol'Aces pose for group shot after topping the Falcons in the Senior League championship game last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center swimmers show their medals and trophies during the awards presentation for the 2012 Guam Championships at the Hagatna Pool last Sunday.

Swim records fall in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami SAIPAN

Three Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center bets capped the 2011-2012 season with record-breaking swims in the 2012 Guam Championships held over the weekend at the Hagatna Pool.

Miku Tammy crushed four marks in the girls 9 to 10 age group, while brothers Ryuto and Kaito Yanai reset records in the boys U8 and 11 to 12 divisions.

Ten-year-old Tammy's first record came in the 100m freestyle event where she timed in at 1:13.80, about three seconds faster than the former mark of Myana Welch (1:16.76/March 28, 2000). Then in the 100m butterfly race, the Tsunami Saipan swimmer clocked in at 1:20.69, shattering the 1:28.57 Amanda Johnson set on March 28, 2002.

Tammy's third record was also in the butterfly stroke—the 50m. She posted 35.61 seconds, surpassing her own record (37.64 seconds) logged on Feb. 18, 2012. For her fourth mark—the 200m backstroke—Tammy tallied 2:57.03, which

See **SWIM** on **Page 26**

SSC swimmers bring home trophies

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three Saipan Swim Club members returned home with trophies and three others won medals after competing in the 2012 Guam Championship held at the Hagatna Pool over the weekend.

Kento Akimatu, Victoria Chentsova, and Taiga Sato each won third place trophies in their respective age groups to lead SSC's successful campaign in the two-day tournament.

The 11-year-old Akimaru topped two events and finished second in three other races to

See **SSC** on **Page 26**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club swimmers pose with their medals after the ocean swim event during the 2012 Guam Championship last Sunday.

N. Yankees notch two run-rule shutouts

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Northern Yankees sliced through both the Ol'Aces (2-0) and the Masters (1-4) in the latest Saipan Major League Baseball Association matchups at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Yanks brushed off the Masters, 10-0, on Monday and sacked the Ol'Aces, 10-0, way last May 16 before bad weather caused a halt to the schedule.

Capping its fifth win in six games the Yankees moved into first place in the standings just ahead of Tan Holdings' second ranked Brewers (3-1) with the defending champion St. Michael's Medical Response-Angels (2-1), IT&E-Fielders (2-2),

See **N. YANKEES** on **Page 26**

Northern Yankees' Joshua Jones torques back for a cut in Monday's SMLBA regular season matchup against the Masters on Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.